

**Standing Rules  
of the  
Senate of the Undergraduate  
Student Body**

**Amended & Passed 01.04.2025**

## I. INTRODUCTION

**RULE 1. Introduction.** — The following rules shall govern and control all actions and procedures of the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body (“Senate”) and its committees. These Rules shall be the only Rules of the Senate which shall continue from term to term, and other Rules shall be considered Special Rules, and they shall expire no later than the conclusion of the term during which they were adopted.

**RULE 2. Definitions.** —

- (a) “Budget Bill” shall be as defined in Title VI, Subtitle A Chapter 1 of the Undergraduate Code.
- (b) “Designated time” (or “specified time”) shall refer to the time at which the Senate has disposed of all items listed prior on the Agenda to the item in question.
- (c) “Item(s) of business” shall be defined as all items of legislation, alongside any other question placed on the Agenda pursuant to these Rules or the law.
- (d) “Standing committee” shall be defined as a committee, established by these Rules, which remains in existence throughout the entire term of the Senate.
- (e) “Permanent select committee” shall be defined as a committee, established by these Rules, which remains in existence throughout the entire term of the Senate.
- (f) “Select committee” and “special committee” shall be synonymous, defined as a committee appointed, as the need arises, to carry out a specified task, at the completion of which it automatically ceases to exist.
- (g) “Speaker Emeritus” shall refer to the Senator who held the office of Speaker at the conclusion of the previous term of the Senate.
- (h) “Sufficient progress”, in the context of renewal, of motions shall refer to sufficient progress in business or debate such that a previously lost motion is essentially a new question.
- (i) “Terminal committee” shall be defined as the committee in which serially referred legislation is set to be heard in last.

## II. MEETINGS, AGENDA, AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

**RULE 3. Sessions.** — Each term of the Senate shall consist of a single session, encompassing each and every meeting held during that term.

**RULE 4. First Meeting.** — The first regular meeting of a new term of the Senate (“first meeting”) shall be held on the first Tuesday of April at 7:30 *post meridiem*. The Speaker Emeritus shall determine the location for the meeting, and shall convene and preside until the election of a Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics. In the case of a vacancy, inability, or refusal to so serve, the duty shall devolve to the individual who held the first listed office below at the conclusion of the previous term of the Senate where that office was filled at the conclusion of the previous term of the

Senate and the the individual holding that office at the conclusion of the previous term of the Senate is willing and capable of exercising such duty:

- (a) the Speaker;
- (b) the Speaker Pro Tempore;
- (c) the Secretary;
- (d) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations;
- (e) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary;
- (f) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Student Affairs;
- (g) the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics;
- (h) the Permanent Select Committee on Government Oversight chair;
- (i) the Chief Clerk.

In the event that the location of the first meeting has not been determined at least twelve (12) hours prior to the first Tuesday of April at 7:30 *post meridiem*, the location shall be the Student Government Suite. In the event the Chief Clerk must convene the first meeting, then immediately after the Call of the Roll they shall proceed to the election of a *Chair Pro Tem* to preside until the election of a Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, and if no such individual designated to convene and preside is present at the designated place and time, then any Senator-elect having been a Senator upon the conclusion of the previous term of the Senate (and failing that, any Senator-elect having previously served as a Senator, failing that any Senator-elect) shall call the meeting to order, swear the Oath of Office themselves, administer the Oath of Office to all Senators-elect present, and then immediately proceed to the election of a *Chair Pro Tem* to preside until the election of a Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics.

**RULE 5. Meetings. —**

- (a) Regular meetings of the Senate shall take place every two weeks during the Fall and Spring Semesters, and shall take place no less than monthly during the Summer, at such dates and times to be determined by the Speaker, unless directed otherwise either by resolution or by petition of a majority of sitting Senators.
- (b) Special meetings of the Senate shall be called when deemed necessary by the Speaker or by a majority of the Senate petitioning the Speaker in writing.
- (c) Meetings of the Senate may be conducted through virtual means (i.e. through Zoom), and may be conducted in a hybrid format. Any meeting which occurs during Summer shall be conducted virtually.
- (d) If the University is placed under Condition 2 (Suspended Operations) or Condition 3 (Closure), then any meeting of the Senate scheduled during the period that the University be operating under such Condition shall be canceled, and if that meeting be

a regular meeting, then for the purposes of clause (a) a regular meeting shall be considered to have taken place.

**RULE 6. Quorum.** —

- (a) A quorum shall consist of a majority of all sitting Senators excepting those Senators on an approved leave of absence or whose voting privileges are suspended.
- (b) When a lesser number than a quorum convenes, the Senators present may send the Sergeant-at-Arms or any person, for any or all absent Senators, as a majority of the Senators present and voting determine.
- (c) If, at any time during a meeting of the Senate, a question shall be raised by any Senator as to the presence of a quorum, the Presiding Officer shall, if they do not rule the question out of order, forthwith direct the roll be called, after which those not present shall again be called. Such a question shall not be in order when another Senator has the floor.

**RULE 7. Journal.** — The Senate, alongside all committees, shall record in the Journal of the Senate full and accurate minutes of their proceedings. They shall be signed by the primary individual responsible for their taking, and once approved shall be signed by the Speaker or committee chair respectively. At the conclusion of the term, the Speaker shall ensure they are properly archived and preserved. The Journal shall contain a record of—

- (a) those Senators present and absent at any time where the roll was called, both initially and as a result of any quorum call;
- (b) all motions offered, no matter their ultimate disposition, including the name of the one who offered it and the one who seconded it if known, alongside its full text and final disposition, where motions adhering to other motions are clearly indicated;
- (c) all legislation, including numbers and titles, considered during the meeting, on any calendar, alongside any action taken;
- (d) all legislation, including numbers and titles, on the Agenda which was not considered;
- (e) all elections conducted, including all nominations made, and a record of all rounds of voting and their outcomes;
- (f) the yeas and nays of any roll call or recorded ballot vote held.

**RULE 8. Agenda.** —

- (a) The Speaker shall collate and publish the Agenda, and shall attempt to docket all items of business in the order in which they were received.
- (b) The Speaker shall, no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to any meeting of the Senate, publish the Agenda, including all items of business reported from Committee since the previous meeting, all items of business referred to the Committee of the Whole since the previous meeting, all items of unfinished business, all items referred

directly to the floor of the Senate, all items postponed to the meeting in question, and all items for consideration during Special Orders.

- (c) Any omissions or errors on the Agenda shall be corrected without vote upon discovery.
- (d) The Presiding Officer shall see that all items be acted upon by the Senate in the order in which they stand upon the Agenda.

**RULE 9. Alteration of Agenda.** — The alteration of the Agenda shall require a majority of two-thirds (2/3), with the exception of reordering items of unfinished business, special orders, or General Orders within their respective calendars, which shall require only a simple majority. An item of legislation removed from the Agenda shall be considered tabled. If a Senator intends to add an item to the Agenda, they shall notify the Speaker of this intent, who shall add such a notation in an appendix to the Agenda. Modification of the Agenda constitutes an incidental main motion, in order as an interruption between any two items on the Agenda—but is generally expected to be made immediately after the Public Comment Period.

**RULE 10. Agenda of Special Meeting.** — The order of business of a special meeting shall be determined by the Speaker, unless it be called by means of petition and said petition specify within otherwise. Any item of business may be docketed upon the Agenda of a special meeting. A Public Comment Period shall precede the consideration of legislation.

**RULE 11. Agenda of Regular Meeting.** — The agenda of a regular meeting of the Senate shall be as follows, provided that (f)(ii) shall be excluded if the President of the Undergraduate Student Body be serving as Student Body President:

- (a) Call to Order;
- (b) Oath of Office;
- (c) Call of the Roll;
- (d) Approval of the Journal;
- (e) Reports of the Officers of the Senate:
  - (i) Speaker;
  - (ii) Speaker Pro Tempore;
  - (iii) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations;
  - (iv) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary;
  - (v) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Student Affairs;
  - (vi) the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics;
  - (vii) the Permanent Select Committee on Government Oversight chair;
- (f) Reports from Officials:
  - (i) Report of the Student Body President;
  - (ii) Report of the President of the Undergraduate Student Body;
  - (iii) Report of the Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Body;

- (iv) Report of the Treasurer of the Undergraduate Student Body;
- (v) Report of the Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Body;
- (vi) Report of the Chief of the Cabinet of the Undergraduate Student Body;
- (vii) Report of the Undergraduate Student Attorney General;
- (viii) Report of the Undergraduate Honor Court Chairperson;
- (ix) Report of the Undergraduate Honor Court Outreach Coordinator;
- (g) Receipts of Petitions and Messages:
  - (i) Papers addressed to the Senate;
  - (ii) Three-minute speeches;
- (h) Public Comment Period;
- (i) Unfinished Business;
- (j) Special Orders;
- (k) Unfavorable Calendar;
- (l) Committee of the Whole;
- (m) Consent Calendar;
- (n) General Orders Calendar;
- (o) Notices and Announcements;
- (p) Adjournment.

RULE 12. **Agenda (First Meeting).** — The agenda of the first meeting shall be as follows, provided that (e)(ii) shall be excluded if the President of the Undergraduate Student Body be serving as Student Body President:

- (a) Call to Order;
- (b) Oath of Office;
- (c) Call of the Roll;
- (d) Approval of the Journal;
- (e) Reports of Officials:
  - (i) Report of the Student Body President;
  - (ii) Report of the President of the Undergraduate Student Body;
  - (iii) Report of the Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Body;
  - (iv) Report of the Treasurer of the Undergraduate Student Body;
  - (v) Report of the Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Body;
  - (vi) Report of the Chief of the Cabinet of the Undergraduate Student Body;
  - (vii) Report of the Undergraduate Student Attorney General;
  - (viii) Report of the Undergraduate Honor Court Chairperson;
  - (ix) Report of the Undergraduate Honor Court Outreach Coordinator;
- (f) Receipts of Petitions and Messages:

- (i) Papers addressed to the Senate;
- (ii) Three-minute speeches;
- (g) Public Comment Period;
- (h) Review of the Standing Rules;
- (i) Election of the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics;
- (j) Election of the Speaker;
- (k) Election of the Speaker Pro Tempore;
- (l) Election of the Secretary;
- (m) Election of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations;
- (n) Election of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary;
- (o) Election of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Student Affairs;
- (p) Appointment of the Permanent Select Committee on Government Oversight;
- (q) Allotment of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics;
- (r) Notices and Announcements;
- (s) Adjournment.

**RULE 13. Oath of Office.** — After convening the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall administer the Oath of Office to any Senators to whom it has not been administered, and this shall occur before the roll be called.

**RULE 14. Approval of the Journal.** — After the roll be called, the Presiding Officer shall order the Journal to be examined and then entertain a motion to approve by consent the Journal after all corrections have been made. If the Journal be distributed in advance, it shall be considered read unless any Senator so objects.

**RULE 15. Reports and Messages.** —

- (a) At the designated time, the Senate shall hear reports from its Officers in the order listed, and said Officers may designate a substitute Senator to report in their stead.
- (b) Those Officials listed in Rule 11(f)—or Rule 12(e) in the case of the first meeting—shall be recognized for the purpose of doing so and shall be summoned to the floor by the Presiding Officer at the proper time. With the consent of the Senate, they may utilize presentations. After any report or message, the individual in question shall answer queries from Senators until there are none.

**RULE 16. Papers and Petitions.** — Petitions, memorials, and other papers addressed to the Senate (“papers”) shall be presented by the Presiding Officer during the specified time. They shall be read aloud unless the Senate directs otherwise. Any messages from the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees of the University, the Board of Governors, or University Faculty or administrators shall take precedence over other papers. The Speaker shall make available, in the same manner as the Agenda, copies of all papers.

**RULE 17. Three Minutes Speeches.** — At the allocated time, every Senator shall be allowed to Speak for a period not exceeding three minutes. Senators who notify the Speaker of their intent to deliver such a speech shall be entitled to recognition in order of notification, only after which shall the Presiding Officer call for such speeches from the floor.

**RULE 18. Public Comment Period.** —

- (a) Every meeting of the Senate shall include a Public Comment Period (“Period”) for the purpose of allowing constituents the opportunity to address the Senate on agenda items.
- (b) The duration of a Period shall be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes, extendable by and only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- (c) Each speaker shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes, extensible by no more than one-third (1/3) of the remaining duration of the Period, but only by a three-fourths (3/4) vote.
- (d) No speaker shall yield their time to another, and no Senator shall speak during the Period, provided that Senators referenced by a speaker are entitled to the right of reply, which must be invoked prior to the recognition of the next speaker, and shall result in the recognition of said Senator for at most five (5) minutes for the purposes of replying to any derogatory comment made about them or made in obvious reference to them.
- (e) An individual who is not an Undergraduate Student at Chapel Hill shall not be recognized for the purposes of Public Comment except by direction of the Senate, shall be subject to the same time limitations as constituents, but shall not count against the overall allocation of time to the Period.
- (f) Any comment made during the Period shall be entered into the Journal, along with the name of the one who made it.
- (g) Individuals desiring to appear before The Senate shall notify the Speaker no later than the beginning of the meeting. However, to assure that an opportunity is afforded to all persons who desire to be heard, the Speaker shall inquire at the beginning of the meeting if there are additional persons who wish to be heard.
- (h) Each individual appearing before The Senate shall identify themselves and the group, organization, or company they represent, if any. Before being allowed to testify before the committee, they shall also be required to file with the Speaker a sworn written statement in the form of a signed witness card swearing or affirming that their testimony is true and correct. They shall then be considered to be under oath while providing such testimony before The Senate.
- (i) This Rule shall not at any time be subject to suspension.

**RULE 19. Review of the Standing Rules.** — During the first meeting, at the proscribed time, Senators may offer amendments to these Rules from the floor, notwithstanding the requirement of Rule 87 that such amendments be offered as a resolution.

**RULE 20. Unfinished Business.** — The unfinished business calendar shall include all items of unfinished business remaining from previous meetings of the current term, and all items of business postponed to the meeting in question.

**RULE 21. Committee of the Whole Senate.** — The Senate shall enter into Committee of the Whole Senate on the State of the Undergraduate Student Body (“Committee of the Whole Senate”) at the designated time, and upon doing so the Presiding Officer shall appoint another Senator—excluding the Speaker Pro Tempore or any chair of a Standing Committee—to take the Chair. Therein the Committee of the Whole shall entertain all normal procedures for consideration of legislation within committee, and legislation reported from within shall be appended to the General Orders calendar upon a report without prejudice, appended to the Unfavorable Calendar upon an unfavorable report with the motion to remove from the Unfavorable Calendar lying on the table, or, by unanimous consent, the Consent Calendar upon a favorable report. Legislation postponed indefinitely in the Committee of the Whole shall be considered postponed indefinitely by the Senate with the motion to reconsider laid upon the table, and legislation that remains lying on the table when the Committee of the Whole rises and reports shall be considered tabled by the Senate. The Committee of the Whole shall, without a vote, rise and report upon exhaustion of its Agenda.

**RULE 22. Consent Calendar.** — The consent calendar shall consist of all legislation which has been reported favorably to the Senate by its Committees since the previous regular meeting, along with all other items of business placed upon it pursuant to these Rules. When the Senate reaches the consideration of the consent calendar, the Presiding Officer shall entertain a motion to approve, adopt, or accept, as the case may be, all items of business upon the consent calendar; such a motion shall be un-debatable and un-amendable. Items of business shall be removed from the consent calendar if any Senator makes such a request in writing to the Speaker no later than five (5) hours before the commencement of the meeting of the Senate, and in such case, the item of business shall be placed on the General Orders calendar for that meeting, provided that an item placed on the consent calendar under Rule 23.4 shall instead be placed upon the special orders calendar for that meeting. It shall not be in order to offer amendments to an item of business on the consent calendar.

- (a) If an item of business placed on the consent calendar requires some supermajority, and the consent calendar be put to a vote and pass but not by the requisite supermajority for such item of business, then the Presiding Officer shall ask if there be any objections to the item in question, and if there be none it shall be adopted by unanimous consent,

whereas otherwise it shall be moved onto the General Orders—or Special Orders for an item placed on the consent calendar under Rule 23.4—calendar.

- (b) If the consent calendar be put to a vote and fail to pass, the Presiding Officer shall, for each item of business upon it, read the title aloud and ask if there be any objections to the item in question, and if there be none it shall be adopted by unanimous consent, whereas otherwise it shall be moved onto the General Orders—or Special Orders for an item placed on the consent calendar under Rule 23.4—calendar.

**RULE 23. Special Orders.** — The Special Orders calendar shall consist of the consideration of all items of business specified by these Rules or the law.

**RULE 23.1 Elections to Vacancies.** — Any election to fill a vacancy in any position filled by vote of the Senate shall occur during Special Orders, and when such a vacancy exists, an election to the vacant office shall be placed on the Special Orders calendar of the next regular meeting.

**RULE 23.2. Internal Affairs.** — All issues of internal affairs—including Final Actions of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics and reinstatement of voting privileges—shall be placed on the Special Orders calendar of the next regular meeting.

**RULE 23.4. Vetoed Bills.** — When the President of the Undergraduate Student Body disapproves of a bill and returns it to the Senate (i.e. vetoes a bill), the Speaker shall place upon the consent calendar of the next regular meeting a motion that said bill be passed against the objections of the President.

**RULE 23.5. Rejected Joint Legislation.** — Any item of joint legislation, having been rejected by the Joint Governance Council, shall be placed on the Special Orders calendar for reconsideration.

**RULE 23.7. Restoration of Voting Privileges.** — When the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics approves the attendance plan submitted to them by a Senator whose voting privileges were suspended for absenteeism, then the Speaker shall place upon the Special Orders calendar of the next regular meeting the question that said Senator's voting privileges be restored.

**RULE 23.8. Presidential Dismissal.** — When the President of the Undergraduate Student Body exercises their power of dismissal, the question of said dismissal shall be placed on the Special Orders calendar of the next regular meeting. Such a question shall not be postponed to a day certain. With respect to such a question, indefinite postponement, the sustension of an objection to the consideration of the question, or the adjournment of the Senate without having approved of the dismissal (and not having definitely postponed it) shall be considered equivalent to rejection, provided that if the Senate adjourn without a quorum being present, it shall be postponed to the next regular meeting.

**RULE 23.9. Motions to Discharge.** — When the Speaker receives notice in writing from any five Senators that they wish to move that an item of legislation be discharged from committee, the

Speaker shall place on the Special Orders calendar of the next regular meeting of the Senate such a motion, and at the designated time the Speaker shall recognize said Senator for the purpose of offering that motion, which shall require a second. Such a motion shall not be in order except at the designated time on the agenda, shall be debatable, and its adoption shall discharge the item of legislation in question from the committee(s) to which it has been referred, being appended to either the General Orders calendar of the current meeting (or the Special Orders calendar if so moved; the motion may be amended as to this and this alone).

**RULE 23.10. Certification of (General) Elections.** — Following a general election to the Senate, the Speaker shall, once the Board of Elections has released the final certified results, place upon the Special Orders calendar of the next regular meeting the certification of the election. At the designated time, the Presiding Officer shall direct that the names—and if relevant, districts—of those the Board of Elections has deemed elected to the Senate be read aloud, and subsequent to that reading, the floor shall be opened to any motions to disqualify Senator(s)-Elect on the basis of their qualifications or to order seated candidates not having been deemed Senator(s)-Elect by the Board of Elections, which shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption, and upon adoption such Senator-elect shall be disqualified and shall not be seated in the next term of the Senate or such individual(s) shall be deemed Senator(s)-Elect respectively, and once there be no further such motions, the Senate shall consider the question that the election results be certified. Even after this procedure, a resolution to disqualify a Senator-elect or order seated a candidate may be introduced, and upon introduction it shall be placed upon the Special Orders calendar of the next regular meeting. Any final vote on a disqualification shall be by roll call, even if there be consent, and this Rule shall under no circumstances be suspended.

**RULE 23.11. Certification of (Special) Elections.** — Following an election where Senators are elected to serve in the current term of the Senate, then on the first meeting in which they are present, then immediately upon the Senate being called to order, their arrival shall be heralded by an individual appointed by the Speaker, the Speaker, and the Presiding Officer shall then ask if there are any objections to them being seated, if there be any, after ensuring the presence of a quorum, they shall be considered as any other motion to disqualify a Senator-elect, and thereafter unless the Senator-elect be disqualified, the Presiding Officer shall order the Senator-elect be admitted, and thereafter shall administer to them the Oath of Office. This process shall be repeated for each present Senator-elect. The following script shall be used:

(a) HERALD: “MR. SPEAKER! A NEW SENATOR!”

(b) PRESIDING OFFICER: “ADMIT THEM.”

(c) \* HERALD ESCORTS NEW SENATOR TO WELL \*

(d) HERALD: “MR. SPEAKER, SENATOR-ELECT [NAME] [OF [DISTRICT]]”

- (e) PRESIDING OFFICER: “WITHOUT OBJECTION, THE OATH WILL BE ADMINISTERED.”
- (f) PRESIDING OFFICER: “WITHOUT OBJECTION. [NAME] PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND AND REPEAT AFTER ME”
- (g) \* PRESIDING OFFICER ADMINISTERS THE OATH \*
- (h) PRESIDING OFFICER: “CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR [NAME]”

**RULE 24. Unfavorable Calendar.** — The Unfavorable Calendar shall consist of all legislation which has been reported unfavorably to the Senate by its Committees since the previous regular meeting. When the Senate reaches the Unfavorable Calendar, it shall not proceed to the consideration of the items within, but instead the Presiding Officer shall accept motions to remove an item of legislation from the Unfavorable Calendar; such a motion shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority, shall be debatable, and shall not be renewed. Once there be no further such motions, the Senate shall proceed onwards in the Agenda. If an item of legislation has been removed from the Unfavorable Calendar, it shall be appended to the General Orders calendar. Upon the adjournment of any meeting of the Senate, all legislation which remains on the Unfavorable Calendar shall expire.

**RULE 25. General Orders Calendar.** — The General Orders calendar shall consist of all legislation which has been reported without prejudice to the Senate by its Committees since the previous regular meeting, along with any legislation referred directly to the floor of the Senate pursuant to these Rules or the Law.

**RULE 26. Notices and Announcements.** — Prior to the scheduled adjournment of a Senate meeting, the Presiding Officer shall recognize all Senators who wish to give announcements, for no more than three (3) minutes each—waivable by majority vote, or deliver notices. With permission of the Senate, members of the public may be recognized as well for this purpose once no further Senators wish to do so.

### III. MOTIONS

**RULE 27. Motions.** — Except where specified otherwise, a motion—

- (a) shall—excluding items of business on the Agenda—require a second;
- (b) is not in order while another Senator is speaking;
- (c) requires a majority vote of present and voting Senators for adoption; and
- (d) may be reconsidered.

**RULE 28. Main Motions.** —

- (a) All original main motions, unless authorized elsewhere in these Rules, shall be in the form of a written bill or resolution.
- (b) An item of business on the Agenda shall be called up and stated by the Presiding Officer at the designated time, without needing to be offered or seconded.

**RULE 29. Motion to *Postpone Indefinitely*.** — The motion to *Postpone Indefinitely* is a debatable—on the merits of both the motion and the applicable main motion—and non-amendable subsidiary motion; which is applicable only to an immediately pending main motion; which yields to all privileged motions, all applicable incidental motions, and all other subsidiary motions; which shall not be renewed in connection with the same main motion nor reconsidered upon a negative vote; and whose adoption has the effect of dropping the main motion.

**RULE 30. Motion to *Amend*.** — The motion to *Amend* is an amendable subsidiary motion, debatable—on the merits of the amendment—only when the motion to which it is applied is debatable; which is applicable to any main motion along with any other motion that legitimately contains a variable factor; which takes precedence over the motion it proposes to amend, alongside the motion to *Postpone Indefinitely*; which yields to all applicable incidental motions, to motions to *Amend*, to *Limit Debate*, or for the *Previous Question* that are applied to it, and to any privileged or subsidiary motion (other than *Postpone Indefinitely* or *Amend*) to which the motion that it proposes to amend would yield; and whose adoption has the effect of modifying the wording and/or meaning of a pending motion prior to action on the pending motion itself. Furthermore—

- (a) There exists no requirement of germaneness nor restriction on degrees of amendment.
- (b) Upon the adoption of an amendment to an item of legislation, the principal sponsor or any cosponsor of the legislation in question may opt to have their name rendered in strikethrough within the item’s legislative history.
- (c) When a series of amendments are offered in a single motion to *Amend*, then unless the adoption of all offered changes are required to achieve a coherent effect, any Senator may demand a separate vote on one or more of them.
- (d) No amendment shall be in order which shall have the effect of rendering the question as amended to be out of order, or to convert one motion into another.
- (e) An amendment shall not be in order unless it clearly and obviously states its effect on the motion to which it is applied.

**RULE 31. Motion to *Re-refer*.** — The motion to *Re-refer* is a debatable—on the merits of referral—and amendable subsidiary motion; which is applicable to original main motions in the form of a bill, resolution, or docket item approving a nomination, with any amendments or motions for *Division of the Question* or *Consideration by Paragraph or Seriatim* that may be pending, which go to and are reported along with the main motion; which takes precedence over the main motion and the motions to *Postpone Indefinitely* (which shall be dropped in the case of adoption), to *Amend*, for *Division of the Question*, and for *Consideration by Paragraph or Seriatim*; which yields to all privileged motions, all applicable incidental motions, to a motion to *Amend* applied to it, and to motions to *Postpone to a Day Certain*, to *Limit Debate*, for the *Previous Question*, and to *Lay on the Table*; which may only be reconsidered upon an affirmative vote and only until the committee has begun

consideration of the question, and which shall not be renewed without sufficient progress; and whose adoption shall have the effect of referring the bill or resolution to a committee of the Senate. The motion shall not be in order in an incomplete form, and shall refer the matter to either—

- (a) a standing or permanent select committee of the Senate;
- (b) a select or special committee, previously established and which remains in existence; or
- (c) a select or special committee, newly established according to the motion.

**RULE 32. Motion to Postpone to a Day Certain.** — The motion to *Postpone to a Day Certain* is a debatable—on the merits of postponement— and amendable—as to the day—subsidiary motion; which is applicable to original main motions (including motions to *Reconsider* an original main motion), with any amendments or motions to *Postpone Indefinitely*, to *Amend*, to *Re-refer*, for *Division of the Question*, or for *Consideration by Paragraph or Seriatim* that may be pending, which travel with the motion to which it is applied; which takes precedence over the motion to which it is applied and the motions to *Postpone Indefinitely*, to *Amend*, to *Re-refer*, for *Division of the Question*, or for *Consideration by Paragraph or Seriatim*; which yields to all privileged motions, all applicable incidental motions, to a motion to *Amend* applied to it, and to motions to *Limit Debate*, for the *Previous Question*, and to *Lay on the Table*; which shall not be renewed without sufficient progress; and whose adoption shall have the effect of postponing the main motion, along with any adhering motions, to a specified meeting of the Senate within the current session, wherein the postponed motion shall be placed on the unfinished business calendar of that meeting, and consideration of the main motion along with all adhering motions shall be resumed upon the designated time.

**RULE 33. Motion to Limit Debate.** — The motion to *Limit Debate* is an undebatable and amendable—amendments being undebatable— subsidiary motion; which is applicable to any immediately pending debatable motion, to an entire series of pending debatable motions, or to any consecutive part of such a series beginning with the immediately pending question; which takes precedence over all debatable motions; which yields to all privileged motions, to all applicable incidental motions; to a motion to *Amend* applied to it, and to the motions for the *Previous Question* and to *Lay on the Table*; which shall not be renewed without sufficient progress; whose adoption has the effect of setting a fixed time for the close of debate, limiting the total time for debate, and/or limiting the length and number of speeches given by Senators, provided that any limitation shall have an equal effect on all Senators; and which requires a two-thirds vote for adoption.

**RULE 34. Motion for the Previous Question.** — The motion for the *Previous Question* is an undebatable and unamendable subsidiary motion; which is applicable to any immediately pending debatable or amendable motion, to an entire series of pending debatable or amendable motions, or to any consecutive part of such a series beginning with the immediately pending question; which takes precedence over all debatable or amendable motions to which it is applied, and over the motion to *Limit Debate*; which yields to all privileged motions, to all applicable incidental motions, and to the

motion to *Lay on the Table*; which shall not be renewed without sufficient progress; whose adoption has the effect of immediately closing debate on, and preventing amendment of, the motion(s) to which it applies, and preventing the making of any other subsidiary motions except to *Lay on the Table*; and which requires a two-thirds vote for adoption.

**RULE 35. Motion to *Lay on the Table*.** — The motion to *Lay on the Table* is an undebatable and unamendable subsidiary motion; which is applicable to any main motion, including motions to *Reconsider* a main motion; which takes precedence over the motion to which it is applied, all other subsidiary motions, and over any incidental motions that are pending when it is made; which yields to all privileged motions and to motions incidental to itself; which shall not be renewed without sufficient progress; whose adoption has the effect of laying aside the target motion alongside all motions adhering to it (and motions adhering to such motions and so on).

**RULE 36. Motion to *Recess*.** — The motion to *Recess* is an undebatable and amendable privileged motion; which takes precedence over the main motion, all subsidiary and incidental motions, and over all privileged motions other than to *Adjourn*; which yields to motions to *Amend* or for the *Previous Question* applied to itself, to privileged motions to *Adjourn*, and to motions incidental to itself; and whose adoption has the effect of entering the Senate into an immediate recess for the specified time.

**RULE 37. Motion to *Adjourn*.** — The motion to *Adjourn* is an undebatable and amendable privileged motion; which takes precedence over all other motions; which yields to motions to *Amend* or for the *Previous Question* applied to itself; and whose adoption has the effect of closing the meeting, and if specified, scheduling an adjourned meeting of the Senate at a particular place and hour whereupon the roll shall be called and the business of the meeting adjourned shall continue as if it never ceased. It shall be in order only at the designated time, or when no quorum is present and in the opinion of the Sergeant-at-Arms (or the individual(s) sent for absent Senators pursuant to Rule 6) no quorum is likely to be attained.

**RULE 38. Motion for *Division of the Question*.** — The motion for *Division of the Question* is an undebatable and amendable incidental motion; which is applicable to main motions and motions to *Amend*; which takes precedence over the main motion, the motion to *Postpone Indefinitely*, and to any motion to *Amend* to which it is applied; which yields to all subsidiary motions except to *Postpone Indefinitely*, to *Amend* (except when applied to itself), and to *Limit Debate*, to all privileged motions, and to all applicable incidental motions; and whose adoption has the effect of dividing a motion which consists of several parts—each of which is capable of standing alone if the others are removed—into said parts to be considered and voted on as if they were distinct questions. At the discretion of the Senate, the divided parts may be debated concurrently, wherein the Presiding Officer shall put the question on each divided part one after another without interruption; otherwise the motion shall specify how the division shall affect or apportion any limitation on debate if any be currently imposed.

**RULE 39. Motion to *Take from the Table*.** — The motion to *Take from the Table* is an unamendable and undebatable motion; which is applicable to any question which currently lies upon the table, with some business having been transacted or dealt with since the question was laid upon the table; which takes precedence over no motion except that it takes precedence over a main motion which has been moved, or whose designated time has just arrived, but has not been stated by the Presiding Officer; which yields to privileged and incidental motions; which may not be reconsidered and shall not be renewed without sufficient progress; and whose adoption has the effect of removing a question from the table and placing it, alongside any ultimately adhering motions, back before the Senate for consideration, picking up exactly where the Senate left off. Furthermore—

- (a) It must be moved at a time when the calendar to which the question belonged upon being tabled is under consideration, or during unfinished business or General Orders—including immediately after General Orders conclude.
- (b) If a Senator intends to offer such a motion applied to a question tabled on a prior legislative day, they shall notify the Speaker of this intent, who shall add such a notation in an appendix to the Agenda to constitute public notice. Otherwise, it must be added to the Agenda pursuant to Rule 9.

**RULE 40. Motion to *Reconsider*.** — The motion to *Reconsider* is a debatable—only when the motion to be reconsidered is debatable—and unamendable motion; which is applicable to any previously carried or lost motion still capable of being reversed by the Senate alone, which cannot be renewed, the object of whose reversal cannot be accomplished in another defined manner<sup>1</sup>; which has only the same rank as the motion to be reconsidered with regards to taking precedence over and yielding to subsidiary and privileged motions not applied to itself; which additionally yields to the motions to *Lay on the Table*, to *Postpone to a Day Certain*, to *Limit Debate* and for the *Previous Question* when applied to itself; which shall not be renewed with respect to the same question except by consent or suspension, and which may not be reconsidered; whose adoption has the effect of bringing a previously decided motion back before the Senate once more for consideration; which requires a two-thirds vote for adoption in the case of a rejected motion to remove an item of legislation from the Unfavorable Calendar; and which may only be made by a Senator who voted on the prevailing side, provided that in cases of unanimous consent all Senators present are considered to have done so. Furthermore—

- (a) If a motion to *Reconsider* is laid upon the table, and the motion to which it adheres can no longer be reconsidered, it ceases to be;
- (b) When a motion to *Reconsider* applied to legislation is offered and seconded, action deriving from the legislation is suspended until the motion to *Reconsider* is either

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<sup>1</sup> e.g. the reversal of a motion to *Lay on the Table* by a motion to *Take from the Table*

finally disposed of or the Senate adjourns with the motion to *Reconsider* laid upon the table;

- (c) If a Senator intends to offer such a motion applied to a question disposed of during a previous meeting, they shall notify the Speaker of this intent, who shall add such a notation in an appendix to the Agenda to constitute public notice. Otherwise, it must be added to the Agenda pursuant to Rule 9;
- (d) No election of Senators to positions shall be reconsidered, and this clause shall not be suspended.

**RULE 41. Dilatory Motions. —**

- (a) No dilatory motion or appeal shall be in order, and no appeal of such a decision shall be in order after the ruling of the Presiding Officer be once upheld.
- (b) No bill or resolution, identical to another, shall be introduced.
- (c) No subsidiary or incidental motion shall be renewed (that is, offered again after having been rejected) without authorization in these Rules.

**RULE 42. Withdrawal of Motions. —** Any motion may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before being stated by the Presiding Officer, otherwise motions may only be withdrawn with leave of the Senate.

#### **IV. DEBATE**

**RULE 43. Presentation. —** After having stated the question on an item of legislation—other than the Budget Bill (which shall be considered per Rule 43.1) or a Resolution of Impeachment (considered per Rule 95)—that was reported from a (sub-)committee (excluding the Committee of the Whole, in which case the Senate shall simply proceed to regular debate), the Presiding Officer shall recognize the chair(s)—or their designee(s)—of the (sub-)committee(s) (in order of consideration if serially referred) which reported on the bill: for the purpose of presenting the report of the committee on the item if there be any beyond simply having reported the item favorably/without prejudice/unfavorably and/or adopted amendments, and otherwise for the purpose of summarizing anything they see as relevant from committee’s deliberations. Afterwards or otherwise, —

- (a) for a bill or resolution:
  - (i) the Presiding Officer shall recognize the principal sponsor or first present and willing cosponsor if the principal sponsor is absent of the bill or resolution for the purpose of presenting the bill or resolution; afterwards or otherwise the Senate shall proceed into regular debate with questioning—directed to the principal sponsor or substitute cosponsor, on any matter germane to the business—explicitly authorized.
- (b) for a docket item approving a nomination:

- (i) the Presiding Officer shall—if there be no objections—recognize the appointer or their representative for the purpose of introducing the nominee; afterwards or otherwise the nominee—if present—shall be recognized for the purposes of introducing themselves and explaining their goals and qualifications; afterwards or otherwise the Senate shall proceed into regular debate with questioning—directed to the nominee, on any matter—explicitly authorized.
- (c) for a Speaker’s Question docket item:
  - (i) the Presiding Officer—the Speaker must yield the chair during the consideration of such a docket item—shall recognize the Speaker—or, if absent, their designee—to introduce the question under consideration; afterwards or otherwise the Senate shall proceed into regular debate.

If none of the above scenarios apply, the Senate shall then proceed into regular debate.

**RULE 43.1. Presentation of Budget Bill. —**

- (a) After having stated the question on the Budget Bill,
  - (i) the Presiding Officer shall recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations—or their designee, in which case said designee shall exercise all functions of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations with respect to the consideration of the Budget Bill—who shall present the Budget Bill to the Senate, and shall highlight all relevant information; afterwards
  - (ii) the Senate shall proceed into regular debate with questioning—directed to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations or any representative of the Student Organizations which would receive funding, relevant to the funding being appropriated—explicitly authorized, and the Presiding Officer in this case shall without question invoke their Rule 43.2(b) power.
- (b) During the period in which the Budget Bill is pending, no subsidiary motion except to *Amend* shall be in order, the question of adjournment shall be dilatory outside an emergency, and any amendments—not having been adopted by consent—shall be considered under a limitation of debate, wherein
  - (i) the mover of the amendment shall control five minutes of time for the purpose of supporting the amendment; which they may use themselves or yield to other Senators; and
  - (ii) the mover of the motion to be amended—the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations in the case of the Budget Bill itself—shall control five minutes of time for the purpose of opposing the

amendment; which they may use themselves or yield to other Senators; provided that,

- (iii) the Presiding Officer shall alternate between asking the mover of the amendment and the mover of the motion to be amended whether they have desire to speak or yield some time to another to speak; once neither have any such desire debate shall be elapsed on the amendment;
  - (iv) if the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations supports the amendment, but other Senator(s) do not, the Senate shall elect a principal opponent of the amendment, who shall thus control the respective five minutes of time; and that,
  - (v) Senators wishing to offer subsidiary amendments shall be recognized in preference to debate on the question.
- (c) The question of the passage of the Budget Bill shall be put once there be no further debate or amendments.
- (d) In the event that the Budget Bill fails, the Senate shall immediately enter a fifteen (15) minutes recess, wherein Senators shall discuss potential amendments to the Bill or other measures to secure its passage, and afterwards, the Senate shall again, for no longer than an hour, consider the Budget Bill as if it had been successfully reconsidered, and during this consideration there shall be amendments but no debate nor higher-order amendments, wherein amendments shall be considered under the same rules as under (b) provided that both sides shall control two rather than five minutes, and once either an hour elapse or there be no further amendments, the question on the Budget Bill shall again be put.

**RULE 43.2. Questioning. —**

- (a) When questioning is explicitly authorized pursuant to Rule 43 or Rule 43.1, Senators recognized to speak may direct questions regarding the specified matter(s) to the specified individual(s), who shall then be recognized to speak in response.<sup>2</sup>
- (b) The Presiding Officer shall be empowered to, upon the Senate entering into regular debate with questioning explicitly authorized, call for questions made under (a) and recognize their offering with preference, until the exhaustion of questions, though this shall cease if ordered, without debate, by majority vote; during the exercise of such power no Senator shall be recognized sequentially for the purpose of offering questions unless by consent.

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<sup>2</sup> when (b) is not in effect, this only differs from regular debate if authorized towards a non-Senator

(c) Furthermore, when (b) is not in effect, any Senator may direct a question to another Senator—or, by consent or majority vote without debate, any individual—who shall be recognized for the purpose of answering it; provided that if a limitation on debate is in effect this shall not apply unless the limitation itself establishes provisions governing questioning.

**RULE 43A. Recognition.** — The Presiding Officer shall recognize those Senators who wish to speak or offer motions when they may request recognition. None shall speak until recognized, beyond Senators when requesting recognition.

**RULE 44. Speaking Privileges.** — Unless otherwise provided within these Rules, no non-Senator shall be recognized. All Senators-Emeriti who are currently enrolled undergraduate students shall possess the same debating privileges as Senators, unless in the determination of the Senate they shall have left office in disgrace. For the purposes of Chapter 2, Article II, Section 14 of the Constitution, this Rule constitutes a measure providing otherwise for all cases. This Rule shall not be subject to suspension at any time.

**RULE 45. Legislative Hearings.** — No sooner than forty-eight (48) hours prior to a committee meeting in which the committee will initially consider an item of legislation, any Senator being a member of said committee may request that a public hearing be held on such an item. Therein, immediately prior to consideration of the item of legislation, the committee shall consider the question that a public hearing be held, and, if adopted, shall then immediately consider the scheduling of the hearing (which may include ordering a special committee meeting), and then shall immediately consider the adoption of rules governing the hearing, and once rules be adopted, the item of legislation shall be considered definitely postponed until the meeting in which the hearing will be held. At such a hearing any member of the public may speak on any subject germane to the legislation in question, and the committee shall not take any action on the legislation prior to the conclusion of the hearing once it has begun.

**RULE 46. Investigatory Hearings.** — Any committee or subcommittee of the Senate shall, at the discretion of the chair, by petition of five (5) Senators serving on the committee (or a majority of Senators with voting privileges who are voting committee members if that number be lesser than five), by vote of the (sub)committee in question, or by order of the Senate or the parent committee in the case of subcommittees, conduct investigatory hearings whose purpose shall be to gather information, including facts and opinions, on issues and subjects relevant to the work of the Senate or of interest to the Student Body. The committee may call witnesses—who may be examined under Oath, and may be accompanied by any student acting as their counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their rights—and compel testimony relevant to any matter properly before the committee, provided that no student shall be subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to testify, except by a committee chair or a majority vote of the committee, and any student shall be notified at least five business days prior to the

time ordered to appear. Any objection to the propriety of a question shall only be sustained by majority vote of the committee. At the conclusion of such a hearing, the committee shall be empowered to introduce

**RULE 47. General Direction.** — The Presiding Officer shall be responsible for preserving order and decorum, shall have general direction of the Hall of the Senate and shall be authorized to take such action as is necessary to maintain order, and in case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or lobbies, shall have the power to order those areas cleared. If the peace, good order, or proper conduct of the legislative business is hindered by any person or persons not being Senators, the Speaker shall have the power to order them removed for the remainder of the meeting,

**RULE 48. Limitations on Debate.** — There shall exist no limitations on the amount of time a Senator may speak on any debatable question, limitations on the time for consideration of such question, or limitations on the number of times a Senator may speak on any question unless such limitations be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote pursuant to Rule 33, or the *Previous Question* be called pursuant to Rule 34. There shall be no other limitations on the content of debate of any Senator, and there shall exist no requirement that a motion to enter debate be sustained in order for debate on a debatable question to occur. Any Senator may address the Senate from the well of the Senate. Senators may only yield the floor to another if limitations on debate have been adopted that authorize such structure. This Rule shall not at any time be subject to suspension.

**RULE 48.1. Cloture.** — If a petition to invoke cloture on a particular item of legislation is delivered to the Presiding Officer, the signatures of three-fifths (3/5) of present Senators with voting privileges having been ascribed, then the Presiding Officer shall certify cloture. When cloture is in effect, debate shall be limited to no more than two (2) hours, counted after the certification of cloture, and no non-Senator shall be recognized notwithstanding any other provisions of these Rules.

**RULE 48.2. Contested Issues.** — At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, or by order of the Senate upon a non-debatable incidental motion, any business before the Senate may be designated or undesignated as a contested issue. Therein, debate shall alternate between those wishing to speak for the business, to the business, and against the business. This designation may be removed by order of the Senate upon a non-debatable incidental motion, or by the Presiding Office if the designation was made at their discretion.

**RULE 49. Decorum.** —

- (a) Senators may refer to one another by name, but no personally derogatory remark shall be in order outside the consideration of resolution of censure, impeachment, or Final Action of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics.
- (b) No remark soliciting the donation of funds for the support of any person or organization shall be in order upon the floor of the Senate unless the remark has true and genuine relevance to a bill or resolution before the body. No article of any kind

soliciting business or donations may be placed by any person anywhere in the Senate Chamber or in any Senate office.

(c) When a Senator is speaking, no Senator shall pass between them and the Presiding Officer.

**RULE 50. Right of Reply.** — Should a speaker reference another Senator whilst speaking, the offended party may request the right of reply, either immediately after the speaker has finished or, if their speech was ruled out of order, immediately after such a ruling. The offended party must be referenced by name, position, or another clearly identifiable language, and statements such as “A previous speaker” shall be deemed sufficiently vague for the right of replies not to be in order, unless the reference be deemed obvious to any informed listener. Such a right may only be used to address the comments regarding the offended party, and any other use shall be deemed out of order.

**RULE 51. Freedom of Speech.** — At no time may a Senator be subjected to court proceedings or disciplinary action or otherwise called to account outside The Senate for a vote cast or for any speech or debate in The Senate or in any of its committees.

**RULE 52. Questions of Privilege.** — A question of privilege may be raised at any point by a Senator, including whilst another is speaking if so truly urgent. A question of privilege shall be a question that affects the rights of the Senate collectively, its safety, dignity, or the integrity of its proceedings and/or the rights, reputation, and conduct of Senators, individually, in their Senatorial capacity only; they shall not be used for the purpose of debate on an item of legislation, or for the purpose of explaining a vote. The raising of a question of privilege shall take precedence over all motions except to *Recess* and to *Adjourn*. The Presiding Officer shall, subject to undebatable appeal, determine whether the question raised is one of privilege. It shall either be handled and resolved as an informal request, or handled as a formal question, subject to debate or amendment (for example entering into closed session).

**RULE 53. Parliamentary Inquiry.** — When a Senator requires clarification with regards to an element of parliamentary procedure, they may direct such an inquiry to the Presiding Officer—interrupting a speaker only if truly required—and they shall provide such clarification, consulting as need be.

**RULE 54. Questions of Order.** — A question of order may be raised at any point by a Senator, including whilst another is speaking, and, unless submitted to the Senate by the Presiding Officer, shall be decided by the Presiding Officer without debate, subject to an appeal to the Senate by any Senator. An appeal (or question of order submitted to the Senate) shall be debatable unless the Senate be currently considering an undebatable question or another appeal (or question of order submitted to the Senate). During the consideration of an appeal or a question of order submitted to the Senate, no motion other than to *Recess* or to *Adjourn* shall be in order, except if it be debatable, in which case motions to *Limit Debate* or for the *Previous Question* shall also be in order. In the event that

these Rules do not provide for or cover any raised question of order, the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* alongside the ancient rituals and traditions of the Senate shall be persuasive authority. The Secretary shall maintain as an appendix (including the text of the point and/or ruling) a compilation of those known instances where a question of order was submitted to the Senate or where the ruling of the Presiding Officer was overturned.

**RULE 55. Speeches Ruled Out of Order.** — When a speaker is called to order for words spoken, they shall take their seat until it is determined whether they were in fact out of order, and if so, shall not proceed without the permission of the Senate, granted without debate. If a speaker is called to order for words spoken, the words to which an exception is made shall be immediately written in the minutes by the Secretary.

## V. VOTING

**RULE 56. Votes by Present and Voting.** — Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all votes are of Senators present and voting, inclusive of any specified fraction or supermajority.

**RULE 57. Roll Call.** — Voting shall be by Roll Call, except where provided otherwise. Senators shall vote “yea [with rights]”, “nay [with rights]”, or “abstain”. The yeas and nays, along with abstentions and spoiled ballots, of all votes (by Roll Call or by Recorded Ballot) shall always be entered into the Journal. If a Senator chooses to vote “yea with rights” or “nay with rights”, then immediately upon the announcement of the result of the vote, the Presiding Officer shall recognize all such Senators in order of votes cast, and for no more than ninety (90) seconds, for the purpose of explaining their vote. This rule shall not be suspended at any time. The Roll shall be sorted at discretion of the Speaker.

**RULE 58. Secret Ballot Prohibited.** — The Senate shall be absolutely prohibited from use of the secret ballot. This rule shall not be suspended at any time.

**RULE 59. Voting by the Presiding Officer.** — The Presiding Officer may reserve their vote unless it would change the outcome.

## VI. LEGISLATION

**RULE 60. Legislation.** —

- (a) A resolution shall be any written motion which seeks to:
  - (i) Approve appointments;
  - (ii) Establish the Standing Rules of the Senate;
  - (iii) Establish the Special Rules of the Senate;
  - (iv) Establish the Code of Ethics;
  - (v) Establish select or special committees of the Senate;
  - (vi) Require reports from organizations receiving funds from the Undergraduate Student Government;
  - (vii) Propose Ballot Measures, including constitutional amendments;

- (viii) Propose and/or approve of amendments to the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*;
  - (ix) Conduct business regarding internal affairs of the Senate, including Final Actions of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics;
  - (x) Impeach Student Government Officials;
  - (xi) Honor or appreciate any individual or organization affecting the Students of the University;
  - (xii) State the opinion of the Senate on any matter;
  - (xiii) Call for action by any external office holder or agency not under the jurisdiction of the Student Government;
  - (xiv) Set the Resolution Rate pursuant to G.S. VI(B): 203
  - (xv) Impose a penalty of disability under G.S. VI(A): 205;
  - (xvi) Initiate changes to the Bylaws of Independent Agencies;
  - (xvii) Issue the Undergraduate Medal of Merit and the James L. Cates Jr. Memorial Award; and/or,
  - (xviii) Exercise any other right, power, privilege, or authority of the Senate, excepting the establishment, alteration, amendment, or repeal of law.
- (b) A bill shall be any written motion before the Senate that seeks to accomplish any task other than those which can legitimately be accomplished by resolution.
- (c) Legislation shall refer to one or more resolutions, bills, acts, laws, or docket items.
- (d) Joint Legislation shall refer to any item of legislation which would affect both undergraduate and graduate and professional students, excepting those which are defined as concurrent.
- (e) Concurrent Legislation shall refer to any item of legislation which would:
- (i) appropriate funds for joint purposes
  - (ii) amend Chapter One (1) of the Constitution
  - (iii) seek to express the opinion of the Student Body on an issue; or,
  - (iv) discharge any other power designated by the Constitution as concurrent.
- (f) Bills shall not become resolutions, nor shall resolutions become bills.
- (g) Resolutions have no life beyond the term during which they are adopted.

**RULE 61. Sponsors and Signatories.** — Any bill or resolution, unless it originate from the deliberations of a committee so empowered<sup>3</sup>, must be introduced by a Senator, and that Senator shall be the principal sponsor, and a bill or resolution may have any number of Senators as cosponsor, along

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<sup>3</sup> including the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations with respect to appropriations bills arising from hearings, the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics with respect to its Final Actions, and select/special committees so authorized.

with any number of Undergraduate Senators or Members of the Undergraduate Executive Council as signatories, provided that for any joint or concurrent item of legislation, members of the Graduate and Professional Student Government may be signatories in accordance with their internal procedures. Status as a cosponsor or signatory shall not confer any additional legislative privilege beyond that explicitly provided for in these Rules. A bill or resolution originating from the deliberations of a committee shall be considered introduced by that committee.

**RULE 62. Bill Title.** — All bills and resolutions shall be given a title by their principal sponsor (or originating committee) upon introduction. The title shall be subject to amendment in the same manner as the contents of the legislation. The titles of docket items shall be determined by these Rules, subject to amendment only as they prescribe, and shall always be rendered fully capitalized.

**RULE 63. Introduction of Legislation.** — Bills and resolutions shall be introduced by the principal sponsor by submitting it to the Speaker or Secretary:

(a) through University email; or;

(b) by any other such means as the Speaker may choose to accept bills and resolutions.

**RULE 63.1. Introduction of Committee Legislation.** — Bills and resolutions originating from the deliberations of a committee so empowered shall be submitted to the Speaker in the same manner as reports on legislation referred to the committee are transmitted to the Speaker. Such a submission shall include a disposition in the same manner as a committee report, and the Speaker will afterwards handle it as such. Such legislation shall be given a number only upon the decision of a committee to report it, as it does not exist outside the committee until then, except for the Budget Bill, which, in the event the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations fails to report it under the circumstances described in G.S. VI(B):210(C)(d)(iii), shall be transmitted—in the condition that it was in upon adjournment of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations—by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations to the Speaker, who shall number it, and thereby may be discharged as if it had been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations.

**RULE 64. Docket Items.** — A docket item is a form of routine question resulting from a well-defined external action which prompts consideration by the Senate. They are automatically instantiated by the Speaker upon notification of such action, as prescribed explicitly in these Rules. They consist entirely of a succinct title which entirely describes the question for consideration, such that all docket items considered in an entire Senate term may be recorded in one document. They have no sponsors/cosponsors/signatories and may only be amended as explicitly prescribed, but apart from these characteristics they have the same properties as a resolution. A certified copy of an approved/adopted docket item shall be the minutes of the Senate meeting in which they were approved, or an excerpt—including number and title—thereof demonstrating approval, though the Speaker may establish a form for formal certificates of approval if necessary, and if necessary for

ceremonial purposes, an approved docket item may be rendered and certified into the same form as a resolution.

**RULE 64.1. Docket Items (Nominations).** — Upon notification of the Speaker by an official with the power to make nominations which require Senatorial confirmation of such a nomination—or, in the case of Senate staff requiring Senate confirmation, upon making such an appointment—, the Speaker shall instantiate a docket item with the following title “CONFIRMATION OF [NOMINEE] AS [POSITION] [TERM]” with “[NOMINEE]” being replaced with the full name of the nominee”, “[POSITION]” with the appropriate article<sup>4</sup> followed by the position in question, and “[TERM]” being the term which the nominee would be appointed to<sup>5</sup>. Such a docket item shall be referred per Rule 78 as any other item of legislation, and adoption of such a docket item, by the prescribed supermajority if any, shall have the effect of approving the nomination. They are not subject to amendment. Once approved, the Speaker shall formally transmit to the appointer notice of approval.

**RULE 64.2. Docket Items (Speaker’s Question).** — The Speaker may—at their discretion—present to the Senate a simple question of policy advisement to a designated recipient. The Speaker shall instantiate a docket item with the following title “ADVISEMENT TO [RECIPIENT]: [QUESTION]?” with “[RECIPIENT]” being replaced with the designated recipient to whom such advisement is being issued and “[QUESTION]” with the complete interrogative independent clause under consideration, phrased in the affirmative. They are not subject to amendment. Approval shall mean that the Senate renders advise to the recipient equivalent to the question restated in the indicative affirmative, while rejection shall mean that the Senate renders advise to the recipient equivalent to the question restated in the indicative negative. If approved or rejected, the Speaker shall formally transmit to the recipient notice of the vote, and the advise so rendered.

**RULE 65. Numbering of Legislation.** — The Speaker shall assign to all items of legislation a number, chronologically as they receive them. A number of a bill shall have the form “USB-ss-###.” A number of a resolution shall have the form “USR-ss-###”. A number of a docket item shall have the form “USD-ss-###”. The “ss” shall be replaced by the number of the current Senatorial term, and the “###” shall be replaced by a sequential number of all bills, resolutions, and docket items which shall begin at one (“001”) with the beginning of each Senatorial term and shall be incremented by one for each piece of legislation introduced so that it shall represent at any time the total number of pieces of legislation introduced in that term of the Senate. The number of an item of legislation shall not be changed except when necessary to correct errors.

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<sup>4</sup> a/an/the

<sup>5</sup> “UNTIL GRADUATION” in the case of Student Supreme Court Justices, Board of Elections Members, and the Undergraduate Chief Legal Officer; “UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS CONFIRMED” for the Undergraduate Solicitor General, generally “20XX-20XX+1 SCHOOL YEAR” otherwise.

**RULE 66. Form of Legislation.** — The Speaker shall establish a prescribed form for bills and resolutions. When a bill or resolution that is introduced is not in the prescribed form, the Secretary shall cause it to be retyped in the prescribed form, and the retyped copy shall become the official copy for all purposes. Those official copies of passed bills and resolutions shall be certified correct and proper by the Secretary, with the date and their signature ascribed, and their passage—along with the date of passage—shall be attested to by the Speaker, with their signature ascribed, which shall additionally serve to attest that the item of legislation passed by any legally-required supermajority, if applicable.

**RULE 67. Legislative History.** — All bills, acts, laws, and resolutions in the Senate shall include a legislative history Section on their first page, which shall include:

- (a) the original introduction number;
- (b) The date of introduction;
- (c) The principal sponsor, cosponsors, and signatories;
- (d) The committee(s) to which it was referred by the Speaker;
- (e) The date it was reported from committee(s), by whom it was reported, and how it was reported, including the number of votes in the affirmative or in the negative on the motion to report, if there was no consent;
- (f) The numbers of any subsidiary documents relating to the bill or resolution;
- (g) Any relevant change in sponsorship that may result from the passing of amendments or otherwise;
- (h) The dates of any other relevant action on the measure, motions for reconsideration, actions are taken;
- (i) The number of votes in the affirmative or in the negative, or an indication of unanimous consent, both for final passage and passage against the objections of the President of the Undergraduate Student Body; and,
- (j) The final disposition of the bill.

**RULE 68. Clauses.** —

- (a) Bills and resolutions may have preambulatory clauses explaining the need for the legislation, which shall begin with an entirely capitalized present participle—or the word “WHEREAS”—followed by a comma and a space, and shall contain one sentence each, terminating with a semicolon. Where there are two or more such clauses, the next to last clause shall terminate with a semicolon followed by the word “and”.
- (b) There shall be an enacting clause in all bills which shall follow any explanatory clauses and shall read “BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY THAT:” If there are explanatory clauses, this clause shall be preceded by the word “THEREFORE” followed by a comma.

- (c) There shall be a resolving clause in all resolutions which shall follow any explanatory clauses and shall read “BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY THAT:” if there are explanatory clauses, this clause shall be preceded by the word “THEREFORE” followed by a comma.

**RULE 69. Joint Legislation.** — Legislation shall be determined as joint by the Speaker. Once determined as joint and passed by the Senate, the Speaker shall present such legislation to the Joint Governance Council at the next meeting of the Joint Governance Council.

**RULE 69A. Concurrent Legislation.** — Legislation shall be determined as concurrent by the Speaker. Once determined as concurrent and passed by the Senate, the Speaker shall present such legislation to the Joint Governance Council at the next meeting of the Joint Governance Council.

**RULE 70. Censure.** — The Senate shall have the authority to pass a resolution of censure against any individual who serves in Student Government or against university personnel connected to Student Government, and such a resolution shall, upon passage, remain active for the remainder of the term. The passage of a resolution of censure shall serve as a reprimand against them for what the Senate believes to be error or wrongdoing but which does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense. It shall be understood that this person is held in poor esteem by the Senate.

**RULE 71. Distribution of Legislation.** — All items of legislation for consideration shall be made available to the entire membership of the Senate through reasonable electronic means. No item of legislation may be considered unless copies of it have been made available to the entire membership of the Senate. The Senate shall vote on the first copy of any legislative matter that was sent to the membership of the Senate unless subsequent notification of any updates or changes is sent to the membership of the Senate in the same manner as the original.

## **VII. COMMITTEES**

**RULE 72. Standing Committees.** — The standing committees of the Senate shall be the:

- (a) Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations, which shall consist of:
- (i) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations, who shall serve as chair;
  - (ii) fourteen (14) Senators, designated by organizing resolution; and,
  - (iii) the Speaker and Speaker pro Tempore, as non-voting members.
- (b) Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary, which shall consist of:
- (i) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary, who shall serve as chair;
  - (ii) six (6) Senators, designated by organizing resolution; and,
  - (iii) the Speaker and Speaker pro Tempore, as non-voting members.
- (c) Standing Committee on Student Affairs, which shall consist of:

- (i) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Student Affairs, who shall serve as chair;
- (ii) six (6) Senators, designated by organizing resolution; and,
- (iii) the Speaker and Speaker pro Tempore, as non-voting members.

**RULE 73. Permanent Select Committees.** — The permanent select committees of the Senate shall be the:

- (a) Permanent Select Committee on Government Oversight, which shall consist of:
  - (i) one (1) Senator designated by the Speaker, who shall serve as chair;
  - (ii) one (1) Senator designated by the Speaker Pro Tempore;
  - (iii) one (1) Senator designated by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations;
  - (iv) one (1) Senator designated by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary;
  - (v) one (1) Senator designated by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Student Affairs; and,
  - (vi) the Speaker and Speaker pro Tempore, as non-voting members.
- (b) Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, which shall consist of:
  - (i) the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, who shall serve as chair;
  - (ii) one (1) randomly selected Senator who shall serve for the entire term; and,
  - (iii) five (5) randomly selected Senators who shall serve for a period of six (6) months and until the successors are determined.

**RULE 74. Select and Special Committees.** — The Senate may establish at any time and for any purpose, by resolution or law, such other select or special committees as it deems necessary. The Senate shall therein determine the method by which the chair and members of such committees shall be determined. The Speaker and Speaker pro Tempore shall serve as non-voting members of any and all select or special committees.

**RULE 75. Rules of Committees.** — The Committees of the Senate shall adopt—for the duration of the term— Committee Rules, which shall govern the proceedings of the Committee insofar as they do not conflict with these Rules, which shall govern the proceedings of committees. The Senate may by resolution establish, alter, amend, rescind, repeal, or nullify any such Committee Rules.

**RULE 76. Meetings of Committees.** —

- (a) Regular and special committee meetings shall be held at discretion of their chair, and as ordered by the committee. Upon the petition of a majority of voting members of the Committee, its chair shall call a special meeting.

- (b) The chair shall notify Senators and the public of committee meetings in the same manner in which notice of Senate meetings are given, and the Speaker shall ensure that chairs have the capacity to do so.
- (c) No committee shall meet at the same time as the Senate, and no committee meeting shall adjourn any later than ten (10) minutes prior to a scheduled Senate meeting.
- (d) The Speaker, with the assistance of relevant individuals, shall be responsible for the allocation of physical meeting space to committees.

**RULE 77. Officers of Committees.** — Each Committee of the Senate shall have a number of vice chairs, who shall be appointed by the chair of the Committee and shall serve at their pleasure, provided that multiple vice chairs shall be distinguished by ordinal and/or rank, and the Committees shall be empowered to establish further internal positions as necessary within their Committee Rules.

**RULE 78. Referral to Committee.** — Upon introduction by a Senator or instantiation (as opposed to proposal/referral by a committee)<sup>6</sup>, items of legislation shall be referred by the Speaker to either to the appropriate committee as follows, or to the Committee of the Whole unless the item of legislation be covered under clause (e)—

- (a) any legislation which:
  - (i) pertains to the generation and allocation of funds;
  - (ii) pertains to the establishment of budgets;
  - (iii) amends the contents of the Finance Code;
  - (iv) appropriates Undergraduate Student Government funds from the Student Activities Fee;
  - (v) requires reports from organizations receiving funds from the Undergraduate Student Government;
  - (vi) approves appointments of:
    - (1) Representative(s) to the Downtown Chapel Hill Partnership;
    - (2) Member(s) of the Student Fee Audit Committee;
    - (3) Member(s) of Carolina Computing Initiative Committee(s); and/or
    - (4) Member(s) of the Scholarships, Awards, and Student Aid Committee;
 shall be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations.
- (b) any legislation which:
  - (i) pertains to the content of the General Statutes or Code of the Permanent laws of the Student Government;

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<sup>6</sup> e.g. appropriations legislation originating from hearings conducted by the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations, Final Actions from the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, or legislation referred directly to the Senate floor by a special or select committee thus empowered.

- (ii) pertains to the content of the Constitution;
- (iii) pertains to the content of these Standing Rules and/or any Special Rules;
- (iv) pertains to the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*;
- (v) pertains to the size or composition of Undergraduate Senate districts;
- (vi) proposes ballot measures not relating to (c)(i);
- (vii) establishes or alters in any way select or special committees of the Senate;
- (viii) initiates changes to the Bylaws of Independent Agencies;
- (ix) approves those appointments listed under G.S. IX:110 or G.S. IX:120;
- (x) approves those appointments made by the Heads of Independent Agencies, except where otherwise specified in these Rules; and/or
- (xi) approves appointments of:
  - (1) the Association of Student Governments Delegate;
  - (2) the Co-Chairs of Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Awards;
  - (3) Member(s) of the Committee of Student Conduct;
  - (4) Member(s) of the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor;
  - (5) Member(s) of the Provost Advisory Committee;
  - (6) Member(s) of the Dean of Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee;
  - (7) Member(s) of the Student Academic Advisory Board;
  - (8) Member(s) and deputy(s) to the Faculty Council;
  - (9) Member(s) of the University Teaching Awards Board;
  - (10) Member(s) of the Priority Registration Advisory Committee;
  - (11) Member(s) of the Educational Policy Committee;
  - (12) Member(s) of the University Calendar Committee;
  - (13) Member(s) of the Academic Calendar Committee;
  - (14) Member(s) of the Ackland Museum of Art Academic Advisory Committee;
  - (15) Member(s) of the General Education Oversight Committee;
  - (16) Member(s) of the Course Committee for the College of Arts and Sciences;
  - (17) Member(s) of the University Policy Committee;
  - (18) Member(s) of the Summer Reading Book Selection Committee; and/or
 shall be referred to the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary.

(c) any legislation which:

- (i) proposes the creation, alteration, amendment, or repeal of Student Fees;
- (ii) proposes referenda relating to (c)(i);
- (iii) honors or appreciates any individual or organization affecting the Students of the University;
- (iv) states the opinion of the Senate on any matter and orders it transmitted;

- (v) states the official opinion of the Undergraduate Student Body;
- (vi) calls for action by any external office holder or agency not under the jurisdiction of the Student Government;
- (vii) issues the Undergraduate Medal of Merit and/or the James L. Cates Jr. Memorial Award;
- (viii) approves appointments of:
  - (1) Member(s) of the Student Legal Services Board of Directors;
  - (2) Member(s) of the WXYC Board of Directors;
  - (3) Member(s) of the STV Board of Directors;
  - (4) Member(s) of the Student Safety and Security Committee;
  - (5) Co-Chair(s) of the Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee;
  - (6) Member(s) of the Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee;
  - (7) Member(s) of the Student Library Advisory Board;
  - (8) Member(s) of the Carolina Union Board of Directors;
  - (9) Member(s) of the Student Technology Advisory Board;
  - (10) Member(s) of the Buildings and Ground Committee;
  - (11) Member(s) of the Student Dining Services Board of Directors;
  - (12) Member(s) of the Student Affairs Council;
  - (13) Member(s) of the MLK Jr. Celebration Planning Committee;
  - (14) Member(s) of the Provost's Committee on LGBTQ Life;
  - (15) Member(s) of the Administrative Board of the Library;
  - (16) Member(s) of the Advisory Committee for UNC Student Stores;
  - (17) Member(s) of the Campus Health Services Advisory Board;
  - (18) Member(s) of the Campus Recreation Advisory Council;
  - (19) Member(s) of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Transportation 5-Year Plan;
  - (20) Member(s) of the Disability Advisory Committee;
  - (21) Member(s) of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

shall be referred to the Standing Committee on Student Affairs.

(d) any legislation which:

- (i) pertains to the content of the Code of Ethics; and/or
- (ii) conducts business regarding internal affairs of the Senate

shall be referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, provided that legislation referred under (d)(i) may be returned to the Speaker by the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, who shall then refer it to the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary Committee.

- (e) any legislation which:
  - (i) is a Speaker's Question docket item;
  - (ii) exercises the power of censure; and/or
  - (iii) exercises the power of impeachmentshall be referred directly to the floor of the Senate.<sup>7</sup>

**RULE 78.1. Referral to Committee (Dual Jurisdiction).** — When legislation satisfies more than one of the sets of criteria established under Rule 78, it shall be referred as follows under the first matching clause, and all further unqualified references to clauses shall be understood within the context of Rule 78—

- (a) legislation which satisfies (b)(i) shall be referred only under (b), unless it either additionally satisfies at least one of (a)(i), (a)(ii), or (a)(iv), in which case it shall be referred under (a), or additionally satisfies (a)(iii) in which case it shall be serially referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary Committee, the Speaker having discretion as to the order of consideration, except if its impact on the Undergraduate Financial Regulations solely pertains to matters relating to Senate procedure it shall be referred solely under (b), or if its impact on the Undergraduate Financial Regulations solely pertains to funding criteria, in which case it shall be referred solely under (a);
- (b) legislation which satisfies (b)(ii) shall be referred only under (b), unless it additionally satisfies (a)(iii), in which case it shall be serially referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations and then upon report to the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary Committee;
- (c) legislation which satisfies more than one of (a)(vi), (b)(xi), or (c)(vii) shall be, without exception, out of order;
- (d) legislation which satisfies at least one of (b)(iii) through (b)(viii) shall be referred solely under (b);
- (e) legislation which satisfies at least one of (c)(iv) through (c)(viii) shall be referred solely under (c);
- (f) otherwise, the Speaker shall refer legislation, to a single committee, at their discretion.

**RULE 78.2. Referral to Committee (Summer).** — Any legislation which is referred to committee under Rule 78 during Summer may be returned to the Speaker by the relevant committee chair, who shall then refer it directly to the floor of the Senate.<sup>8</sup> If the legislation was referred serially, it shall be as if the committee reported without prejudice.

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<sup>7</sup> i.e. placed on General Orders

<sup>8</sup> i.e. placed on General Orders

**RULE 78.3. Referral to Committee (from Committee).** — The committees of the Senate may originate bills and resolutions from their deliberations and refer them to the Senate—favorably or without prejudice—in the following situations—

- (a) from hearings conducted by the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations;
- (b) from the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics upon recommendation of a Final Action;
- (c) from the Permanent Select Committee on Government Oversight, relating to all matters before it; and,
- (d) when otherwise authorized.

**RULE 78.4. Serial Referral.** — Except as explicitly established in these Rules, legislation shall be referred to one and only one committee at a time, whether by the Speaker or by the Senate. If legislation is referred to multiple committees, then when committees other than the terminal committee report on the legislation, the subsequent committee shall then consider it, and when the terminal committee reports it, the Senate shall consider it in accordance with the disposition of the terminal committee’s report, provided that if the terminal committee issued a favorable report but another committee issued an unfavorable report, it shall be treated as if it was referred without prejudice, and if the terminal committee issued an unfavorable report but another committee issued a non-unfavorable report, it shall be treated as if it was referred without prejudice. The Speaker shall be empowered to refer legislation, reported to the Senate without prejudice, to further committees, with the exception of resolutions invoking the power of censure and/or impeachment, or Final Actions of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics.

**RULE 79. Reports of Committees.** —

- (a) All items of legislation having been referred to committee shall be reported from the committee with those recommendations the committee may desire to make, which, at minimum, shall include a disposition: either a recommendation in favor of passage (a “favorable report”), a recommendation against passage (an “unfavorable report”), or a statement that the committee makes no recommendation with regards to passage (a “report without prejudice”).
- (b) A committee to which a bill or resolution (or a docket item if amendable) is referred shall have the authority to amend the item in question by itself, without need to recommend their adoption, and if the committee in question do so, the item in its amended form shall be within the report, whether verbatim or by reference to a public electronic document. They may
- (c) A report of a committee shall be signed by the Chair alone, and shall contain a list of all actions taken by the committee in its own right (e.g. issuance of subpoenas), a list of all

legislation which has not yet been reported from committee and a list of all reported items of legislation alongside—

- (i) the disposition with which they are reported;
  - (ii) the item in its amended form if amendments are transmitted through the formal report (or a statement indicating that amendments were adopted if transmitted otherwise); and
  - (iii) anything else the committee may wish to recommend.
- (d) No later than the sooner of forty-eight hours after the committee meeting or twenty-four hours before the next meeting of the Senate, the Chair shall transmit the report of the committee to the Speaker, whether by University email or by other such means as the Speaker may accept reports.
- (e) A Chair may submit the report of their committee in the form of minutes, if all information required within a committee report is clearly indicated within, provided that upon receipt of such a report the Speaker may demand a report containing only the prescribed elements.
- (f) The reports of committees shall be made available to Senators and the general public in the same manner as legislation, but they shall not be presented in the Senate for adoption or approval as a whole, rather the disposition shall determine which calendar legislation is placed upon, the amended copy of legislation is simply distributed, and other recommendations are read as per Rule 43, which may be adopted if specific parliamentary actions are proposed, e.g. a division of the question.
- (g) This rule shall not be suspended at any time.

**RULE 80. Minority Reports.** — When an item of legislation is reported unfavorably by a committee of the Senate, then a minority report, signed by at least two Senators of the committee who voted against the report of the committee, may be submitted to the Speaker, and thereby during the meeting of the Senate in which the item of legislation in question shall appear on the Unfavorable Calendar, those Senators who ascribed their names to the minority report shall be recognized for the purpose of offering a motion that said item be removed from the Unfavorable Calendar with preference to other Senators who may wish to offer such a motion.

**RULE 81. Subcommittees.** — Any committee of the Senate shall have the authority to establish subcommittees, which may be exercised both by the committee and by the Chair themselves. Such subcommittees shall consist of not less than three (3) Senators, and shall have all the powers of the full committee, including the power to conduct hearings, to call witnesses, to issue subpoenas (exercisable both by the full committee and the Chair themselves), to inquire into any matter properly before the committee, and to amend and report legislation to the Senate, provided that only legislation referred to the subcommittee may be amended or reported on to the Senate. Legislation may be

referred to the subcommittee by the committee, and by the committee Chair if the legislation has not been previously considered in the full committee. Subcommittees shall have the power to establish sub-subcommittees (and so on), and in such a case every reference in this rule outside this sentence shall refer to the sub-subcommittee and the subcommittee in the place of the subcommittee and the committee respectively.

## VIII. ELECTIONS

### RULE 82. Elections. —

- (a) All Elections by the Senate shall be conducted by recorded ballot, by majority vote, and upon nominations from the floor.
- (b) At the start of an Election, the Presiding Officer shall call for nominations, and once there be no further nominations, shall entertain by consent a motion to close the floor to nominations, and following this, if there be only one declared candidate, shall entertain by consent a motion to suspend the rules and immediately elect said candidate.
- (c) The Presiding Officer shall subsequently recognize, in reverse order of nominations, each candidate for the purpose of speaking on their own behalf, for no more than five (5) minutes.
- (d) Following candidate speeches, the candidates shall answer queries for a time not to exceed five (5) minutes per query per candidate; queries may be directed to any number of candidates, and the Presiding Officer shall alternate between recognizing candidates in reverse order of nomination and in order of nomination. Upon the conclusion of queries, the Senate shall proceed into debate. Should no candidate receive a majority, or less than the required number of candidates be elected, the Senate shall return to debate. Balloting shall continue until such time as the required number of candidates be elected.
- (e) When conducting elections of multiple members to a board, committee, council, commission, or other such multi-member body, Senators may vote for as many candidates as there are remaining positions to be filled; every valid ballot cast for one or more candidates shall count as a vote, and a candidate must receive a majority of the total of such votes (i.e. be listed on a majority of valid ballots cast naming one or more candidates for that office) in order to be elected; and if there be a tie involving more candidates than available positions, none involved in the tie shall be elected in that round of balloting.

### RULE 82.1. Ballots. —

- (a) Any ballot cast during an Election by the Senate shall be signed by the voting Senator who has cast it, and shall be inscribed with the name of the Office in question. No ballot shall be considered valid if these conditions not be met.
- (b) The ballots shall be open for public inspection, and shall be retained until such time as the minutes of the meeting—a transcription of the ballots contained within—where the vote took place have been approved.
- (c) When conducting elections of multiple members to a board, committee, or commission, each Senator shall cast one ballot listing up to the number of open positions.

**RULE 83. Removal from Committee. —**

- (a) By majority vote, a Senator may be removed from a standing committee;
- (b) By majority vote, a Senator may be removed from a permanent select committee, excluding the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics;
- (c) By majority vote, members of a select or special committee may be removed, and additionally they may be removed by other procedures defined to govern such committees, wherein if a committee has members appointed by an individual or officeholder at their sole discretion, it is assumed that, unless otherwise specified, they have the power to, at their discretion, remove those whom they have appointed;
- (d) By Final Action of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, a Senator may be removed from the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics;
- (e) Upon the suspension of the voting privileges of a Senator, excepting the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, they shall be removed from the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics if they currently sit upon it.
- (f) No removal of Senator(s) from committee may be added to the Agenda wherein notice of such intent has not been noted on the Agenda under Rule 9.
- (g) Otherwise, Senators shall not be removed from positions on committee, and this rule shall not be subject to suspension.

**RULE 84. Sortition of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics. —** Members of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics shall be selected through sortition. The Presiding Officer shall utilize some manner of electronic random name selection mechanism for this purpose, and the Senate may by majority vote order the use of an alternative means of sortition. The Presiding Officer shall first, if necessary, select one (1) random Senator who is neither an Officer of the Senate nor the chair of a permanent select committee and who has served in a previous term of the Senate, and they shall serve for the entire term. The Presiding Officer shall then, if necessary, select up to five (5) random Senators who are not Officers of the Senate, and they shall serve for a period of six (6) months and until their successors are determined. This rule shall not be subject to suspension.

**RULE 85. Senate Appointments.** — The Senate shall—by means of an organizing resolution—designate from within:

- (a) two (2) Members of the Dean of Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee;
- (b) one (1) Member of the Committee on Student Conduct;
- (c) two (2) Members of the Chief of Police Advisory Committee;
- (d) one (1) Member of the Student Fee Audit Committee;
- (e) two (2) Members of the Student Safety and Security Committee;
- (f) one (1) Member of the Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee;
- (g) one (1) Member of the Student Library Advisory Board;
- (h) two (2) Members of the University Teaching and Awards Board;
- (i) two (2) Members of Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Awards;
- (j) one (1) Member of the WXYC Board of Directors;
- (k) one (1) Member of the STV Board of Directors; and
- (l) one (1) Member of the Student Legal Services Board of Directors.

**RULE 85A. Senate Organizing Resolution.** — Following the adjournment of the first regular meeting of the Senate, the Speaker shall originate and introduce an organizing resolution which designates the membership of all standing committees and all possible Senate-designated external appointments, for consideration at the second regular meeting of the Senate.

## **IX. LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS AND STAFF**

**RULE 86. Officers.** —

- (a) The Senate shall elect from among its membership as its Officers:
  - (i) a Speaker;
  - (ii) a Speaker Pro Tempore;
  - (iii) a Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations;
  - (iv) a Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary;
  - (v) a Chair of the Standing Committee on Student Affairs;
  - (vi) a Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics; and,
  - (vii) a Secretary.
- (b) All Officers shall serve for the remainder of the term, barring resignation, impeachment, removal<sup>9</sup>, or ineligibility. For the purposes of this clause, the term “Officer position” shall include the Permanent Select Committee on Government Oversight chair.
- (c) Each Senator shall serve either:

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<sup>9</sup> i.e. by Final Action of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics

- (i) as an Officer of the Senate;
- (ii) upon a standing committee, not as the Chair;
- (iii) upon the Permanent Select Committee on Government Oversight; or,
- (iv) as a Senate Appointment.

(1) If, in the determination of the Speaker, there exist an insufficient quantity of Senators to fill all Senate Appointments, they may, subject to the approval of the Senate, appoint Senators to such Senate Appointments.

(2) If, in the determination of the Speaker, there exist a quantity of Senators such that not every Senate would be able to serve in one of the above capacities, they may propose to the Senate that the quantity of elected seats upon any standing committee be—for the period of the term—increased beyond the specified limits. When such an extension is approved, the Senate shall enter into an election for seats upon the committee(s) in question.

**RULE 86.1. Vacancies. —**

- (a) Vacancies among Officers of the Senate—and any other position filled by the Senate via election—shall be filled by election at the next regular meeting of the Senate, subject to postponement to a day certain by a majority of two-thirds (2/3).
- (b) Vacancies among positions filled by the Senate by means of organizing resolution shall be filled via a supplemental organizing resolution, provided that in the case of Senate Appointments the Speaker may appoint Senators to discharge such Appointments in the interim.
- (c) In the absence of the Speaker, the duty to convene and preside shall devolve to (and all references the the Speaker in the context of their role as Presiding Officer shall be construed as referring to), in descending order:
  - (i) the Speaker Pro Tempore;
  - (ii) the Secretary;
  - (iii) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations;
  - (iv) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary;
  - (v) the Chair of the Standing Committee on Student Affairs;
  - (vi) the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics.
- (d) In the event that the Speaker and all the above listed Officers are absent, then the Chief Clerk (and in their absence any Senator) shall call the meeting to order at the scheduled location and time; and immediately proceed to the election—without debate—of a *Chair Pro Tempore* for the duration of the meeting.

- (e) If the Speakership lies vacant, the first eligible and capable of the above listed Officers shall discharge the Speakership in its entirety until a new Speaker be elected.
- (f) The Presiding Officer shall have the right to call on any Senator to discharge the duty to preside, for so long as the Presiding Officer pleases.
- (g) In the case of vacancy, inability, or absence of a Committee chair, the highest ranking present vice chair of the relevant committee shall convene and preside.

**RULE 86.2. The Speaker.** — The Speaker shall:

- (a) serve as the Presiding Officer of the Senate;
- (b) serve as the chief administrator and spokesperson of the Senate;
- (c) serve as the Organizational Treasurer of the Senate, unless they designate another Officer of the Senate or a Senate staffer to fulfill such a function;
- (d) serve as a member of the Provost Advisory Committee;
- (e) serve as a voting member of the Joint Governance Council;
- (f) serve as a voting member of the Carolina Union Board of Directors;
- (g) serve as a voting member of the Student Fee Audit Committee;
- (h) call special meetings of the Senate;
- (i) serve as a non-voting member of all Senate committees, except Ethics;
- (j) ensure that all duties of the Senate and its officers are properly executed;
- (k) ensure the compliance of the Senate and its committees with public records law;
- (l) ensure the compliance of the Senate and its committees with open meetings law;
- (m) make—subject to these Rules and the consent of the Senate—operational decisions;
- (n) provide regulations for the operation of news media on the Senate floor;
- (o) prepare—in cooperation with the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations—the budgets requests of the Senate;
- (p) sign all legislation passed by the Senate, and transmit such legislation to the President;
- (q) sign all resolution passed by the Senate, and transmit them to appropriate parties;
- (r) appoint one (1) member of the Provost Advisory Committee;
- (s) administer the Oath of Office to Senators-elect; and,
- (t) discharge all other lawfully assigned duties.

**RULE 86.3. The Speaker pro Tempore.** — The Speaker pro Tempore shall:

- (a) perform such duties as the Speaker may from time to time assign;
- (b) serve as the Presiding Officer of the Senate in the absence of the Speaker;
- (c) serve as a voting member of the Joint Governance Council;
- (d) serve as a non-voting member of the Student Fee Audit Committee;
- (e) conduct orientation of Senators-elect;
- (f) maintain communication with the university community; and,

(g) execute such other responsibilities as lawfully assigned to them.

**RULE 86.4. The Secretary.** — The Secretary shall:

- (a) inscribe and maintain the Journal;
- (b) transmit the Journal to the Speaker;
- (c) edit legislation during Senate meetings according to motions adopted by the Senate;
- (d) ensure that the General Statutes of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Standing Rules of the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body are free of typos and that all formatting and numbering is correct, and they shall have the authority to edit these documents to these effects, taking care to avoid altering the meaning of any statute, resolution, etc.
- (e) ensure that legislation under consideration by the Senate adheres to the typographical standards of the Senate;
- (f) certify transcripts, legislation, and other documents under the Seal of the Senate;
- (g) perform such duties as the Speaker may from time to time assign; and,
- (h) receive the assistance of deputies—appointed by the Speaker—in the discharge of their duties, which shall include a Chief Clerk, a Bill Clerk, and a Journal Clerk.

**RULE 86.5 The Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations.** — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations shall:

- (a) serve as a voting member of the Joint Governance Council.

**RULE 86.6 The Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary.** — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary shall:

- (b) serve as a member of the Provost Advisory Committee;
- (c) serve as a voting member of the Joint Governance Council.

**RULE 86.7 The Chair of the Standing Committee on Student Affairs.** — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary shall:

- (d) serve as a member of the Provost Advisory Committee.

**RULE 86B. The Office of the Parliamentarian.** — The Speaker shall appoint a Parliamentarian, who shall serve at their pleasure, and who shall—under the direction and supervision of the Speaker:

- (a) advise the Senate on matters of parliamentary procedure;
- (b) advise the Speaker on matters relating to the law;
- (c) perform such duties as the Speaker may from time to time assign; and,
- (d) appoint as needed—with the consent of the Speaker—deputies to assist in their duties.

**RULE 86C. The Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms.** — The Speaker shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall serve at their pleasure, and who shall—under the direction and supervision of the Speaker:

- (e) maintain the security and sanctity of the Senate chamber;
- (f) enforce the rulings of the Presiding Officer or Senate;
- (g) enforce seating rules within the Senate chamber;
- (h) procure the attendance of those Senates absent without excuse;
- (i) retrieve such individuals as may be summoned by the Presiding Officer or Senate;
- (j) preserve order within the galleries;
- (k) explain the Senate's expectations of order to guests;
- (l) greet members, visitors, and guests entering the Senate chamber;
- (m) perform such duties as the Speaker may from time to time assign; and,
- (n) appoint as needed—with the consent of the Speaker—deputies to assist in their duties.

**RULE 86D. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion.** — The Speaker shall appoint a Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, who shall serve at their pleasure, and who shall—under the direction and supervision of the Speaker:

- (o) assist in the planning and execution of the Senate's outreach activities;
- (p) advertise such outreach activities;
- (q) perform such duties as the Speaker may from time to time assign; and,
- (r) appoint as needed—with the consent of the Speaker—deputies to assist in their duties.

**RULE 86E. The Office of Technology Resources.** — The Speaker shall appoint a Technology Resources Coordinator, who shall serve at their pleasure, and who shall—under the direction and supervision of the Speaker:

- (a) maintain the website and mailing list of the Senate;
- (b) maintain other technology resources of the Senate;
- (c) perform such duties as the Speaker may from time to time assign; and,
- (d) appoint as needed—with the consent of the Speaker—deputies to assist in their duties.

**RULE 86F. The Office of the Legislative Auditor.** — The Speaker shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Legislative Auditor, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Senate, and who shall—under the direction and supervision of the Speaker:

- (a) have authority to compile financial statements and to examine, audit, or review the books and accounts of the Undergraduate Student Government, all Officers, members, staff, and external appointments of the Undergraduate Student Government, and all other public or quasi-public agencies or bodies—which shall refer to Any organization that receives or expends any funds appropriated by the Senate—, hereinafter collectively referred to as the "auditee";
- (b) have—along with any deputy designated by them—the power—in the performance of their duties—the power to inspect and to make copies of any books, records,

instruments, documents, files, films, tapes, and other forms of recordation, including but not limited to computer and recording devices, of the auditee;

- (i) they may call upon the auditee and any of its officials and staff for assistance and advice, and such assistance shall be given through the assignment of personnel or in such other manner as necessity requires;
- (c) assist the Permanent Committee on Finance and Appropriations as requested by the Chair of the Permanent Committee on Finance and Appropriations;
- (d) prepare and submit—not later than thirty (30) days prior to the conclusion of the term—to the President and Senate their report on the financial statements of the Undergraduate Student Government, together with such comments on internal control structure and compliance with laws and regulations that are appropriate;
- (e) perform such duties as the Speaker may from time to time assign; and,
- (f) appoint as needed—with the consent of the Speaker—deputies to assist in their duties.

**RULE 86G. The Committee Staff.** — For each committee of the Senate, the chair of said committee may appoint, direct, oversee, and dismiss committee staff, which may consist of a Staff Director, Staff Assistants, and any other positions as the chair may establish, who shall—under the direction and supervision of the respective chair:

- (a) assist their respective committee or chair with legislative tasks;
- (b) assist Senators with constituent tasks related to the committee in question;
- (c) perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to them, by their respective chair or a staffer to whom said chair has assigned to oversee them.

**RULE 86H. The Office of the Speaker.** — The Speaker shall appoint their personal staff, which shall include a Chief of Staff, and who shall—under the direction and supervision of the Speaker and those staffers to whom the Speaker has assigned to oversee them:

- (a) assist the Speaker with legislative tasks;
- (b) assist the Speaker with constituent services;
- (c) assist the Speaker in the development and implementation of public communications strategies, activities, and promotional materials;
- (d) draft press releases following meetings of the Senate;
- (e) transmit press releases to journalistic groups;
- (f) assist the Speaker in outreach and research;
- (g) perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to them by the Speaker.

**RULE 86I. The Office of the Speaker pro Tempore.** — The Speaker shall appoint their personal staff, which shall include a Chief of Staff, and who shall—under the direction and supervision of the Speaker pro Tempore and those staffers to whom the Speaker pro Tempore has assigned to oversee them:

- (a) assist the Speaker pro Tempore with legislative tasks;
- (b) assist the Speaker pro Tempore with constituent services;
- (c) assist the Speaker pro Tempore in the development and implementation of public communications strategies, activities, and promotional materials;
- (d) assist the Speaker in outreach and research;
- (e) perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to them by the Speaker pro Tempore.

RULE 86J. **Senators' Staff.** — All Senators shall possess the power to appoint their personal staff, who shall assist them with legislative tasks, constituent services, outreach, communications, research, and other duties as deemed necessary by their respective Senator.

## X. AMENDMENT OR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

RULE 87. **Amendment of the Rules.** — Amendment of these Rules, and the adoption, amendment, or recession of Special Rules, shall be by resolution, and such a resolution shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of present and voting Senators.

RULE 88. **Suspension of the Rules.** — The Senate may suspend, except as provided herein and for no longer than the current meeting, any Rules by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote without debate. Neither Rule 87 nor Rule 88 shall at any time be suspended, and no rule protecting a minority of a particular size may be suspended in the face of a negative vote as large as the minority protected by the rule.

## XI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

RULE 89. **Senatorial Records.** — The official Senatorial Records shall contain an alphabetical list of all Senators, including for each their:

- (a) Name;
- (b) District Number, if applicable;
- (c) District Name, if applicable;
- (d) Date of Election;
- (e) Board of Elections confirmation of election;
- (f) Date of administration of Oath of Office;
- (g) Senator's signature that affirms the Senator's promise to follow the Senatorial ethics and rules requirements;
- (h) Terminal date of their Senate term.

These requirements shall be enforced by the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics.

RULE 90. **Legislative Log.** — There shall be maintained, by a staffer to be designated by the Speaker, a Legislative Log, consisting of a centralized record of, for all bill and resolutions

introduced/considered within the term, the information that would be contained within their legislative history, and the same for all docket item, but pertaining only to the components of a bill or resolution's legislative history which a docket item also possesses.

**RULE 91. State of the University Address.** — A resolution inviting the Chancellor to deliver a State of the University Address will be introduced during each term. At the meeting where the Chancellor will deliver such an Address, an individual designated by the Presiding Officer shall herald their arrival—though no sooner than after the Roll be called, and they then shall be recognized, without interruption, for deliverance of the Address.

**RULE 91A. State of the Undergraduate Student Body Address.** — A resolution inviting the President of the Undergraduate Student Body to deliver a State of the Undergraduate Student Body Address will be introduced during each term. At the meeting where the President will deliver such an Address, they shall deliver such an address at the proscribed time for their regular report.

**RULE 92. Measures at the End of the Term.** — All measures which remain in committee at the conclusion of a Senatorial term shall be considered failed. All measures tabled or otherwise not considered by the end of the term shall be considered failed. Any act unsigned by the President of the Undergraduate Student Body at the beginning of the next term shall be considered law.

## **XII. IMPEACHMENT**

**RULE 93. Resolution of Impeachment (Structure).** — Any resolution that impeaches a Student Government Official shall be dedicated to that purpose, and shall—

- (a) designate the name of the Student Government Official(s) to be impeached, the date of their commission or election, and the place where they reside;
- (b) designate two managers for the prosecution, who shall be Senators;
- (c) enumerate at least two Senators who shall aver the truth of the Articles of the Resolution of Impeachment, and who shall not aver to the truth of any allegation unless having probable cause to believe such allegation to be true; and,
- (d) enumerate the charges—limited to malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance, conduct unbecoming, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors—against the specific Student Government Official(s) to be impeached, one per Article, provided that no one charge allege more than one specific act by which the Student Government Official(s) to be impeached shall have failed to perform the duties of their office, and shall allege specifically by what acts, upon what dates, and in what manner the official(s) shall have failed to perform the duties of their office as prescribed by the Constitution of the Student Body, Joint Code, Undergraduate Code and the laws enacted thereunder.

**RULE 94. Resolution of Impeachment (Special Meeting).** — If a regular meeting of the Undergraduate Senate is not scheduled within fourteen (14) days of the filing of a Resolution of

Impeachment, the Speaker shall call a special meeting of the Undergraduate Senate, to be held within seven (7) days of the resolution's filing, the agenda of which shall include the consideration of the Resolution of Impeachment. It shall be ensured that a physical copy of the Resolution is prepared for its consideration.

**RULE 95. Resolution of Impeachment (Consideration).** — Once the Presiding Officer states the question on a Resolution of Impeachment—

- (a) the Presiding Officer shall first require each Senator, who shall be enumerated by the Resolution to aver to the truth of said Article, to acknowledge such averment and to subscribe their signature to the Resolution of Impeachment. If any such Senator(s) should be absent, another Senator(s) may aver and subscribe their signature in their stead, if they too have probable cause to believe such allegation to be true, and in such case the Resolution shall be considered amended with respect to the Senator(s) enumerated to aver. If at least two (2) Senators do not aver to the truth of the allegations and subscribe their signatures to the Resolution, it shall be as if the Resolution was ruled out of order; afterwards,
- (b) the Resolution shall be read in its entirety; afterwards,
- (c) the Presiding Officer shall recognize the principal sponsor or first present and willing cosponsor if the principal sponsor is absent of the Resolution for the purpose of presenting the Resolution; afterwards or otherwise,
- (d) the Senate shall proceed into regular debate; provided that:
  - (i) during the period where the Resolution of Impeachment be pending, no subsidiary motion other than to *Postpone Indefinitely*, to *Amend*, or for the *Previous Question* shall be in order; and that,
  - (ii) during the period where the Resolution of Impeachment be pending, no individual other than an Undergraduate Senator, whose debate privileges are not suspended, shall be recognized or granted speaking rights, and this clause shall not be suspended at any time.

**RULE 96. Impeachment (Preliminary Proceedings).** — Should a Resolution of Impeachment be adopted, then—

- (a) the President of the Court of Impeachment (or if there be no such eligible Justice, the Speaker) shall within twenty-four (24) hours schedule a special meeting of the Senate, to be held not more than fifteen (15) nor less than seven (7) days thereafter, the Agenda of which they shall place the impeachment trial upon, provided that if any regular meeting of the Senate is scheduled to occur within the aforementioned timeframe, they may docket the impeachment trial upon the special orders calendar of any such regular meeting.

- (i) If multiple officials be impeached, they shall have the discretion to docket any number of trials during any number of special sessions, bounded by the quantity of cases.
  - (ii) If there be a Justice eligible to serve as President of the Court of Impeachment, and they either recuse themselves or fail to either schedule such a special meeting or docket the trial upon the special orders calendar of a regular meeting within the allotted twenty-four (24) hours, such (in)action shall indicate their inability to serve as President of the Court, and thus the Speaker shall within following twenty-four (24) hours exercise this duty.
- (b) the Speaker shall direct that the Secretary shall, within twenty- four (24) hours, prepare and certify a true and accurate transcription of the Resolution of Impeachment as amended, and the poll of the Undergraduate Senate upon the question of its adoption; and that,
- (c) the Speaker shall direct the Secretary that they, within forty-eight (48) hours following the adjournment of the Senate, issue proclamation and summons to the Student Government Official(s) under Impeachment, fixing the day of return upon the convening of the Undergraduate Senate in Special Session for their trial.
- (d) The proclamation and summons to the Student Government Official under Impeachment shall contain—
- (i) A certified transcript of the Resolution of Impeachment as amended and the poll of the Undergraduate Senate upon the question of its adoption;
  - (ii) A certified copy of all Rules and Procedures for Introduction, Consideration, and Trial; and,
  - (iii) A certified copy of those provisions of the Constitution of the Student Body defining and guaranteeing the Rights of Students.
- (e) The form of the proclamation and summons to be issued and served upon the Student Government Official under Impeachment shall be:
- (i) “The Undergraduate Senate to \_\_, Greetings, Whereas the Undergraduate Senate did, on the \_\_day of \_\_, adopt Resolutions of Impeachment against you, the said \_\_, \_\_, should be put to answer the accusations as set forth in said Resolution, and that such proceedings, examinations, trials, and judgments might be thereupon had as are agreeable to law and justice. You, the said \_\_, are therefore hereby summoned to be and appear before the Undergraduate Senate sitting in the Court for the Trial of Impeachments, at \_\_ o’clock \_\_.m., at \_\_ on the day of \_\_, then and there to answer to said Articles of Impeachment. Furthermore, You, the said \_\_, are therefore hereby relieved and excused from

the discharge of your duties under the Constitution of the Student Body and the laws enacted there under pending the trial of such Articles of Impeachment, and You, the said, should you fail to appear and answer to the Articles of Impeachment, shall be ordered and adjudged to have answered and pleaded Not Guilty, by and through the Clerk of the Court for the Trial of Impeachment for and upon your behalf acting. Hereof fail not. Witness \_\_, Secretary of the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body, this \_\_ day of \_\_.”

**RULE 97. Court of Impeachment (Officers of the). —**

- (a) The Secretary of the Senate shall be the Clerk of the Court.
- (b) Upon the commencement of the trial, the President Pro Tempore of the Court of Impeachment shall be elected if either there is no able and eligible President of the Court of Impeachment or said individual is absent, and immediately afterwards or otherwise, the Presiding Officer shall cede the Chair to the President or President Pro Tempore of the Court of Impeachment as it may be.
- (c) The President of the Court of Impeachment shall be that Justice of the Supreme Court of the Student Body designated as such by the relevant section of the Constitution.
- (d) The President Pro Tempore of the Court of Impeachment shall serve until a successor is elected or until adjournment, and if for whatever reason during the Trial, there is no one to act as President of the Court, then the Trial shall be immediately suspended, the Presiding Officer of the Senate shall retake the Chair and preside over the election of a new President Pro Tempore of the Court of Impeachment, who shall then take the Chair and the Trial shall be thus resumed.
- (e) If the Court of Impeachment be presided over by a President Pro Tempore, then the rightful President of the Court of Impeachment shall be ceded the Chair upon presenting themselves.

**RULE 98. Court of Impeachment (Trial). —**

- (a) The President of the Court shall administer the following Oath to each Senator of the Undergraduate Senate before such Senator shall act as a member of the Court of Impeachment, and if multiple cases be tried in one meeting, shall administer it to each Senator prior to each trial:
  - (i) “[iūrō/affirmō], aequam iūstitiam, secundum ediscentium corporis cōstitutōnem et leges, agitātūrum esse, in rēbus omnibus appertinentibus iūdicō [name of impeached] nunc prōcēdenti”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> “I, \_\_, solemnly swear (or affirm) that in all things appertaining to the Trial of the Impeachment of (name), now proceeding, I will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and Laws of the Student Body.”

- (b) The order of business for an Impeachment Trial shall be as follows:
- (i) Administration of the Oath
  - (ii) Reading of the Resolution
  - (iii) Presentation of the Case:
    - (1) Opening Argument by Prosecution
    - (2) Opening Argument by Defense
    - (3) The examination of witnesses and introduction of real and documentary evidence submitted by the Managers for the Prosecution;
    - (4) The examination of witnesses and introduction of real and documentary evidence submitted by the Defense;
    - (5) Closing Argument by Defense
    - (6) Closing Argument by Prosecution
  - (iv) Debate on the Question
  - (v) Poll of the Court
- (c) Once the Oath has been given, the Clerk of the Court shall read the Resolution of Impeachment, following which the President of the Court shall, for each charge, as the Defense how they plead, and if no plea be entered it shall be assumed to be a plea of not guilty. If the plea for each and every charge is a guilty plea, the court shall proceed immediately into debate.
- (d) Prior to or during the Presentation of the Case, the Court may, by a non-debatable but amendable motion adopted on a majority vote, establish time limits on the Presentation of the Case, though any such limits must be structured as to allot equal time to the Prosecution and the Defense. The President of the Court shall call for any such motions immediately prior to recognizing the Prosecution for their Opening Argument.
- (e) During the Presentation of the Case, the President of the Court shall rule upon all questions of evidence or legal procedure, subject to a non-debatable appeal, or may in the first instance put any such question to a non-debatable vote. Any motion made by the Prosecution or the Defense shall be during the Presentation of the Case, and shall be delivered to the President of the Court in writing, who shall either rule on it (subject to non-debatable appeal to the Court) or submit it to the Court for non-debatable decision. The President of the Court may defer action (including submitting it for a vote) on any such motion until the conclusion of evidence if they deem it necessary. The Prosecution or the Defense shall not make any motion for summary judgment or dismissal, or anything with a comparable result or that would result in dismissal of article(s) of impeachment.

- (f) Following the Closing Argument by the Prosecution, the Court shall proceed into Debate. No charge shall be dismissed except by non-debatable motion of the Senate during Debate, and the only other motion in order during Debate shall be for the *Previous Question*.
- (g) When conducting the Poll of the Court following the conclusion of Debate, the President of the Court shall, first, read the following statement: “Sustaining an Article of Impeachment means that the impeached individual is removed from office. You are instructed that the burden of proof rests on the Managers to prove an article of impeachment by preponderance of the evidence, that is, that it is more likely than not that the allegation is true. You are to determine if the allegation in each article presented to you has been proven by preponderance of the evidence, and if so, shall the article of impeachment be sustained which would result in removal from office. The final question to be put to you after each article is: ‘Shall this article of impeachment be sustained?’”, and afterwards, for each individual Article, direct that it be read, and then upon it being read, put the question “Shall this article of impeachment be sustained?”, calling in order upon each present Senator, wherein they may vote either “guilty” or “not guilty”, or may abstain, and upon the conclusion of voting on each article, announce the tally and verdict. If, on at least one charge, the Impeached is deemed guilty by two-thirds of present and voting Senators, they shall be removed from office. Once the question has been put on each article, the President of the Court shall—if a guilty verdict be returned on at least one article—put to the court the following question: “Shall the sentence include permanent disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit of the [Undergraduate] Student Body”, and if such question be sustained by a majority of present and voting Senators, then the sentence shall include such disqualification. Upon conclusion of the Poll of the Court, the President of the Court shall again announce the verdict on all articles, followed by the sentence—whether that be removal and disqualification or mere removal—and if the Impeached be convicted on any charge, shall proclaim their removal from office, provided that if the impeachment is being conducted under Chapter 1 of the Constitution, they shall instead proclaim the referral of the case to the Joint Governance Council for confirmation.
- (h) Upon Acquittal or Conviction of any Student Government Official under Impeachment, the President of the Court shall return the Chair to the Presiding Officer.

**RULE 99. Court of Impeachment (Witnesses). —**

- (a) The examination of witnesses submitted by either side shall be in the following manner:
  - (i) The direct examination of the witnesses by the side submitting the individual;
  - (ii) The cross-examination of the witnesses by the side not submitting the individual;
  - (iii) The redirect examination of the witnesses by the side submitting the individual; and,
  - (iv) The re-cross-examination of the witnesses by the side not submitting the individual.
- (b) Each witness called by either side shall be administered the following oath by the President of the Court:
  - (i) “I, \_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that the evidence which I shall give in the case now pending between the Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and shall be the Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth.”
- (c) If a member of the Court is called as a witness, they shall be sworn and give their testimony standing in their place, but shall not be disqualified thereby from sitting in the Court.

### **XIII. ETHICS**

**RULE 100. Ethics (Organization Membership).** — Within five days of having been administered the oath of office, all Senators submit to the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics:

- (a) a list of all Registered Student Organizations in which they are active or have been active in the past academic year; and
- (b) a list of all offices held in such organizations.

These lists shall be:

- (a) updated to reflect any Registered Student Organization in which the Senator in questions becomes active in during their term in office;
  - (i) it shall be each Senator’s duty to notify the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics of any such updates;
- (b) open to public—i.e. fee-paying undergraduate student—inspection on request; and,
- (c) posted on the Senate’s website.

**RULE 101. Ethics (Reporting to Constituency).** — Within five days of having been administered the oath of office, all Senators submit to the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics:

- (a) a plan for informing their constituency of the activities of the Senate; and,

- (b) no less than one contact method—e.x. phone number, email address—for publication on the Senate website.

**RULE 102. Ethics (Proof of Constituency).** — Within five days of having been administered the oath of office, all Senators submit to the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics:

- (a) proof that they are a constituent of the constituency they represent;
  - (i) this shall include a screenshot from Connect Carolina including the Senator's name and degree program;

If an individual is found to have utilized methods such as declaring a new primary major, switching majors, or misrepresenting a particular constituency for the purposes of acquiring a seat by the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics, they shall be immediately expelled from the Senate as they shall not definitionally be a Senator.

**RULE 103. Ethics (Change of Status).** — Senators, representing district constituencies, shall notify the Speaker and the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics of any change of major(s) or enrollment that affects their status as a Senator within five (5) days of the date such a change occurs. Failure to provide such notification within one (1) week of such change shall result in an Ethics Investigation. The Senator shall provide a written statement describing their intentions to change majors to the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics for review. If the written statement does not sufficiently clarify the Senator's reasoning for the status change, an Ethics Investigation shall result.

**RULE 104. Ethics (Attendance).** —

- (a) Senators are obligated to attend all meetings of the Senate, committees of the Senate upon which they serve as voting members, and bodies to which they have been elected to as a Senate Appointment.
- (b) The Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics may—with no less than twenty-four (24) hours notice prior to the meeting in question—excuse absences on the basis of:
  - (i) extenuating circumstances.
- (c) The Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics may excuse absences on the basis of:
  - (i) family emergencies;
  - (ii) personal illness;
  - (iii) class schedule conflicts or changes;
  - (iv) unexpected changes to a work schedule;
  - (v) religious obligations;
  - (vi) legal proceedings; or,

- (vii) force majeure.
- (d) When Senators miss meetings which they are obligated—as a Senator—to attend, they shall accrue attendance points, which shall persist through the term. When such an absence occurs and is not excused, two (2) points shall be accrued by the absent Senator, and when such an absence occurs and is excused, one (1) point shall be accrued by the absent Senator.
- (e) Upon accumulating eight (8) or more absence points, the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics shall deliver to the Senator’s UNC electronic mail address a formal warning, and report on the warning during the next meeting of the Senate. Should the Senator in question accrue further attendance points after transmission of a formal warning, their voting privileges shall be suspended.
- (f) In order for a Senator whose voting privileges are so suspended to have such privileges restored, they must submit to the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics a written plan detailing how they intend to ensure attendance at the remainder of the term’s mandatory meetings, and have such a plan approved by the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics and the Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
  - (i) Subsequent absenteeism shall constitute chronic absenteeism.
- (g) The Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics may grant a leave of absence of up to one (1) semester worth of days to any Senator. Should the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics determine that the leave of absence is not justifiable, they must consult with the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics. A leave of one (1) semester worth of days or less, not approved by the Ethics Chair, or a leave of absence of greater than one (1) semester worth of days must be approved by a majority vote of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics. Senators on a leave of absence shall be treated as if their voting privileges have been suspended for the duration of the leave of absence, but shall not in any derogatory sense be considered to have been subject to a suspension of voting privileges.
  - (i) “one (1) semester” may include either:
    - (1) a Fall Semester;
    - (2) a Spring Semester; or,
    - (3) the period from the end of one Fall Semester to the start of the following Spring Semester.
  - (ii) grounds for approving a leave of absence shall include but are not limited to:
    - (1) family emergencies;
    - (2) personal illnesses;
    - (3) recovery from medical procedures;

- (4) academic programs;
- (5) religious obligations; and,
- (6) legal proceedings.

(h) If a Senator departs a meeting they are obligated to attend prior to the adjournment of such meeting, or arrives thirty (30) or more minutes later than the scheduled start time of such a meeting, they shall receive two (2) attendance points for every two (2) such violations, provided that such “early exits” or “late departures” may be excused under the same circumstances as absences.

- (i) Senator shall be obligated to inform the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics when they engage in such violations.

**RULE 105. Ethics (Conflicts of Interest). —**

- (a) No Senator shall be a paid staff member of any organization funded by the Senate.
- (b) No Senator shall be entitled to nor shall they accept a stipend, salary, or any other form of compensation for the purpose of serving in the Senate from any other organization.
- (c) A Senator must abstain from voting when the business at hand exclusively affects any university-sponsored organization or registered student organization of which they are currently a member—with the exception of the Senate itself—and the matter at hand would have the effect of appropriating funds or amending the quantity of funds to potentially be appropriated to the organization in question.

**RULE 106. Ethics (Code of Ethics). —** The Senate shall adopt—on the proposition of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics—and may amend—by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of present and voting members—a Code of Ethics that all Senators are bound by. Behavior falling outside the realm of ethical conduct shall constitute nonfeasance, misfeasance, and/or malfeasance as the case may require. The Code of Ethics shall be published on the Senate website. Failure to comply with student law and/or Senate rules shall constitute malfeasance, misfeasance, and/or nonfeasance as appropriate.

**RULE 107. Ethics (Code Exam and Treasurer’s Test). —**

- (a) Within five days of having been administered the oath of office or the Treasurer’s Test having been made available, all Senators shall pass the Treasurer’s Test. Those Senators which have failed to do so shall be barred from voting on any legislation which would appropriate funding or serving upon the Standing Committee on Finance and Appropriations. If a Senator passes—by a 90% threshold—the Treasurer’s Test after having failed to complete it within the designated timeframe, the Senate may—by a two-thirds (2/3) vote—remove the disability imposed by such a failure.
- (b) Within five days of having been administered the oath of office or the Code Exam having been made available, all Senators shall pass the Code Exam. Those Senators which have failed to do so shall be barred from voting on any bill which would

establish, amend, or repeal law or serving upon the Standing Committee on Rules and the Judiciary. If a Senator passes—by a 90% threshold—the Code Exam after having failed to complete it within the designated timeframe, the Senate may—by a two-thirds (2/3) vote—remove the disability imposed by such a failure.

(c) The Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Ethics shall enforce this Rule.

#### **RULE 108. Grounds for Ethics Action**

(a) Chronic absenteeism, malfeasance, misfeasance, and/or nonfeasance of any kind by a Senator shall constitute grounds for action.

(i) Chronic absenteeism shall be defined as continued absences following an ethics action due to absenteeism.

(ii) Malfeasance shall be defined as wrongdoing or misconduct.

(iii) Misfeasance shall be defined as performing a lawful action in an unethical, illegal, or improper manner. This shall include deliberately misusing one's office for personal gain.

(iv) Nonfeasance shall be defined as a failure to act or fulfill one's duty.

#### **RULE 109. Form of an Ethics Actions**

(a) Ethics Complaints shall contain the following information:

(i) A specific allegation of wrongdoing;

(ii) Supporting evidence if any;

(iii) The name of the individual bringing the complaint; and

(iv) The name of the accused.

#### **RULE 110. Submission of an Ethics Complaint**

(a) Ethics complaints must be submitted to the Ethics Chair in either written or electronic form.

(b) The Ethics Chair shall ensure members of the public are able to submit Ethics complaints through the Undergraduate Senate website.

#### **RULE 111. Arbitration**

(a) Upon receiving an ethics complaint, the Ethics Chair shall first attempt to resolve the matter informally with the subject of the complaint.

(b) The Ethics Chair is not required to informally discuss ethics complaints and may choose to immediately begin an Ethics Investigation.

(c) If a Senator is the subject of three (3) ethics complaints alleging the same allegation submitted by three different individuals the matter must be referred to the Ethics Committee for investigation.

#### **RULE 112. Procedure for an Ethics Investigation**

(a) For the purpose of investigation, both the complainant and the accused individual should

- be present. On a case-by-case basis determined by the Ethics Committee, the complainant or accused individual can be absent, but must present a statement to be read to the committee outlining facts and chronological order of violations in question.
- (b) The order of the Ethics Committee Investigative Meeting shall be as follows:
- (i) Call to Order
  - (ii) Roll Call
  - (iii) Reading of the Formal Complaint
  - (iv) Statement of the Complainant
  - (v) Statement of the Accused
  - (vi) Presentation of Evidence and Witness of the Complainant
  - (vii) Presentation of Evidence and Witness of the Accused
  - (viii) Cross examination of the Evidence and Witnesses of the Accused
  - (ix) Cross examination of the Evidence and Witnesses of the Complainant
  - (x) Final Statement of the Complainant
  - (xi) Final Statement of the Accused
  - (xii) Recess for deliberation of the Ethics Committee
  - (xiii) Call to Order
  - (xiv) Motion of Dismissal or specific Final Action of the Complaint to be reported to Full Senate
  - (xv) Adjournment
- (c) The Complainant and the Accused individual have the right to counsel at any time after the notice of being called to the Ethics Committee Investigative Meeting is received.
- (d) The Ethics Committee Investigative Meeting will take place no earlier than seventy-two (72) hours after a complaint is received to allow for proper scheduling and notice to all parties.
- (e) The Ethics Chair will serve as presiding officer and is allowed a vote after a motion of Dismissal or Final Action. A motion of dismissal is final and will not be re-addressed unless new supporting documentation is found relevant by the Ethics Chair.

**RULE 113. Final Actions of the Ethics Committee**

- (a) The Ethics Committee may recommend the following actions:
- (i) Suspension of voting privileges,
  - (ii) Suspension of Voting and Debating Privileges,
  - (iii) Suspension of Duty,
  - (iv) Removal of an Officer,
  - (v) Expulsion for Absenteeism,
  - (vi) Expulsion.

- (b) Suspension of voting privileges of any Senator for a definite period of time shall require a majority vote of the Ethics Committee and a majority vote of the Senate.
- (c) Suspension of voting and debate privileges of any Senator, during both meetings of the Undergraduate Senate and its committees, for a definite period of time shall require a majority vote of the Ethics Committee and a majority vote of the Senate.
- (d) Suspension of all official duties, including voting and debate privileges and the permission to attend meetings of the Undergraduate Senate and its committees in an official capacity for a definite period of time, shall require a majority vote of the Ethics Committee and a three-fifths ( $\frac{3}{5}$ ) vote of the Senate.
- (e) Persons who have been suspended shall not represent the Undergraduate Senate in any official capacity throughout the period of their suspension.
  - (i) Upon entering a period of suspension, suspended persons shall be tasked with the completion of actions designed to rectify the cause of suspension. Actions shall be stipulated by the Ethics Committee and shall require a two-thirds vote of the Undergraduate Senate for approval.
  - (ii) Should an officer of the Undergraduate Senate be suspended, the Vice-Chair or Pro Tempore of the officer's respective committee shall hold the officer's position for the duration of their suspension.
  - (iii) Should the Joint Governance Council Member at Large be suspended, the Speaker shall appoint a replacement Member at Large to serve for the duration of the suspension.
- (f) Removal of an Officer shall require a majority vote of the Ethics Committee and a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate.
- (g) Expulsion for absenteeism, limited to the failure to fully attend the required number of the Undergraduate Senate or committee meetings, shall require a majority vote of the Ethics Committee and a majority vote of the Senate.
- (h) Expulsion for any cause other than absenteeism shall require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Ethics Committee and a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate.
- (i) The Ethics Committee should it decide that some punitive action is warranted, shall recommend a single course of action in its report to the Full Senate. After the report is read, the Ethics Chair will make a debatable motion in the form of a resolution listing the report and recommending such Final Action.
- (j) If the Speaker is subject of the ethics action, they shall relinquish the chair to the Speaker Pro Tempore during the period of debate. If the Ethics Committee Chair is the subject of the complaint, it should be filed with the senior-most member of the Ethics Committee, who shall direct an investigation after informing the Speaker of the charges made against the

Chair.

(k) Final Actions will take effect immediately upon passage by The Senate.